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AESCHYLUS

I

AESCHYLUS

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
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IN TWO VOLUMES

I

SUPLIANT MAIDENS
PERSIANS PROMETHEUS
SEVEN AGAINST THEBES



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INTRODUCTION

OF the periods of the world's history signalized by national aspiration and achievement, and at the same time fraught with a spiritual significance reflected in the mind of a master poet, the age of Aeschylus holds a foremost place together with the age of Shakespeare. Imagination bodied forth in poetry of the loftiest order found, alike in Hellas in the earlier part of the fifth century and in England under Elizabeth, its inspiration and ideal in the living present.

The life of the Greek dramatist fell upon times of external and internal unrest, times of vivid emotions, of joy and wonder and hope, when the Athenian as an individual first discovered himself, first surveyed the spectacle of life with intellectual interest and in self-reliance, and with high spirit and impassioned energy engaged in keen struggle for his personal and national existence in confident expectation of an adequate reward, and with an ever-present recognition of his obligations to the commonwealth. It was the age of expansion and aggrandizement, the age that witnessed events that proved the resolution and the valour of Athens when she cast aside her timidity under despotism. In the lifetime of the poet Athens expelled the tyrant of the house of Peisistratus, reformed the constitution under

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Cleisthenes so that it now enlisted the support of all her citizens, and established a polity ensuring to the State a free course to further self-development into a true democracy. In his lifetime too the city acquired a material strength entitling it to take a commanding part as an international power in the triumph of Greece over the despotic barbarism that for a generation had menaced it with annihilation of its political existence. In this triumph the countrymen of the poet had displayed heroic self-sacrifice and indomitable courage. And when the Persian peril had passed, and the possibility of the return of the arbitrary lawlessness of tyranny was for ever removed, the later life of the poet witnessed the rebuilding of Athens, whose temples and homes had been razed by the invader, and at its close the beginning of those strongly conflicting currents of the older and the newer political life as the democracy was shaping its victorious course under the captainship of Pericles. In his youth the Athens of Aeschylus was a petty cantonal State ruled by the uncontrolled will of a despot; at his death, her citizens were warring simultaneously in Asia, in Egypt, in Cyprus; her fleet commanded the Aegean, and she was moving steadily toward an empire won and maintained by sea-power.

Aeschylus is the only Athenian representative in literature of this age crowded with events of far-reaching importance both for the city-state, and for the larger world, an age represented in war and statesmanship by such giant figures as Miltiades, Themistocles, Aristides, and Cimon; in painting, sculpture, and the ceramic art by Polygnotus, Myron,

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and Brygus ; each of whom had responded to the intense stimulus offered by his environment. Aeschylus was not merely a spectator, he was a participant in the impulses and mighty movements of the period, and helped to make his times in a far different way than his contemporaries Simonides and Bacchylides. Even as Homer mirrors the conflicts of an earlier age in an art characterized by exuberant fancy and spontaneous feeling, so Aeschylus mirrors the second great period of Greek thought as he presents the more reflective spirit of Attic national life as it was engendered by the war in defence of national independence.

Liberty, won by revolution, had awakened the Athenian people to self-consciousness and stimulated it to inaugurate self-government under freedom safeguarded by law enacted by a sovereign people. Ideas of justice and the divine regulation of the world now acquired a significance hitherto unknown to a population largely agrarian. The barriers of that narrower, provincial world had now been swept away. Men, drawn together by external danger, experienced an impulse toward spiritual unity, heretofore unknown, and even an active sentiment of unanimity, which was soon however to be dissolved under the centrifugal influences of Greek political action. From the transformation in the external world of politics and society, the defeat of barbarian insolence, the momentary unification of the defenders of the freedom of Greece, Aeschylus may well have been led to his conception of the evolution of mankind, and of the gods themselves, proceeding from tyranny to liberty, from struggle to peace, from discord to harmony. To the confusions of anarchy

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and barbarism succeeds the equity that is the basis of law and order.

But this transformation of the older Athens was scarcely more rapid or more profound than that of the tragic art under the hand of its true founder. The art of literature, as that of architecture and sculpture, displayed at this period a rapidity of evolution unequalled in history.

Aeschylus exhibited his first play in 499, only thirty years after Peisistratus, who tempered tyranny with patronage of the arts, had established, as a public institution, the annual contest in tragedy at the festival of the City Dionysia. In this contest Thespis, reputed the first tragic poet, whose plays had heretofore been produced at village celebrations, won the prize. Aeschylus' first victory was gained in 484, four years before the battle of Salamis, and from that date till his death in 456 he was the master tragic poet of his time.

The art as he received it, we may conjecture in the absence of all remains, consisted almost exclusively of choral songs varied with interludes of narrative, together with some brief dialogue between the leader of the chorus and a character impersonated by a single actor, whose introduction was due to the genius of Thespis. Plot, in the later sense, genuine advance in the action, and character-drawing were absent. The art, as he left it, had well-nigh attained to its fullest capacity of original expression. From Homer and Hesiod and the Cyclic poets, from elegiac, iambic, and melic poetry, especially that of Stesichorus, from ancient books of sententious wisdom and the earlier and contemporary writers in prose who dealt with the traditionary myths, Aeschylus derived his

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mythology and the fabric of his fables, into which he breathed the breath of his own spirit and through which he found expression for his own thought on things human and divine. More by virtue of his imagination, his moral and religious feeling, and his brooding thought than by virtue of his reason and his intellect, he fashioned heroic personages into dramatic characters charged with will and passion, and whose motives, deliberately conceived, impelled the action forward; characters, even when individual, none the less contemporaneous with every age because typical of universal humanity. Greater, however, than the poet's power to stamp his single persons with individuality is his ability to sweep a wider horizon and to depict the characters of whole families and even of a whole people. His interest is less in the individual than in the family or national group in whose fortunes the individual is involved. The poetic gift native in him, an Athenian, his contact with life at a period of stimulating political and social convulsion, when man had attained to a sense of his spiritual no less than his political liberty, could find expression only in an art, which, though but just created, voiced as no other the instinct of his age and race. That art alone possessed the power to reflect the collective spirit of the intensified life of a free commonwealth that had no counterpart in the society depicted by the great epic poet, whose story of war and adventure still commanded the admiration of vast assemblies at the rival concourses of the rhapsodes. The myths, still darkly obscure from the twilight of their births, he refined in the light of the clarifying spirit of a faith based alike on reason and on piety.

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In the myths and legends of the race he discovered an ethical and religious content: he transformed them into problems of human destiny or of the divine righteousness: Prometheus suffers, Io suffers, before our eyes; and instantly we are made to confront the question whether the lord of Olympus is a just god. He naturalized himself in those high altitudes of thought and emotion whence he could survey the springs of good and evil, the mysterious agencies of the fate that makes man's character its instrument, the relation of punishment to sin, the meaning of suffering, the dealings of God with man, and the essential unity of the divine purpose. With these lofty themes he dealt primarily as an artist not as a preacher; and he discloses inconsistencies that forbid our ascribing to him any exclusive or deliberate philosophic or religious system of belief. Neither mystagogue nor philosopher moulded his spirit to mystery or dogma. Greater than his work was the man, greatest of his coevals, though the work is the distillation of a mind of spiritual grandeur, and burdened, in its ancient way, with the mystery of all the unintelligible world.

Philosophy in Aeschylus' day had ceased to be the province of the solitary searcher into the causes of things. Except when, as in the case of Pythagoras, religion was associated with physics, the Ionian thinkers included man in their speculations only in so far as he constituted a part of nature. Aeschylus found in man the centre of gravity of the world, in man, whose mind, experience, and action are implicated alike in his environment and in those far-off influences that descend to him from successive

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generations of his ancestors. He had some inkling of the complexity of the causes underlying human events. He could, in the *Prometheus* at least, find the central germ for tragic action in motive developed pre-eminently from within. He has not indeed harmonized the discordant elements of life, but the keystone of his fully developed art is his recognition of the causal connexion of character, deed, and catastrophe. If he has less variety than Euripides and even than Sophocles, he sees life more as a unity than they. He related the eternal verities of the ancient wisdom of the race, the maxims of conventional ethics, to the life of man as it acts and suffers; and at the same time he displayed the universality of their application in the personages of the heroic past. Step by step, and by repeated trials, availing himself of the more favourable conditions in the State after the conclusion of the Persian war, he mastered the technique of his art, whose more mechanical (but none the less spiritual) forms, music and the dance, he developed to the highest perfection they enjoyed in connexion with ancient dramatic art. He gave to tragedy its directing principle in substituting for the choral the more vivid dramatic element, which alone could bring into high relief the impulse and the judgment inspiring human action. He created, it seems, the larger unities of trilogy and tetralogy, which, when formed of plays interconnected by the myth, each a drama comprising a complete action, yet itself only a part of a greater whole, embody the loftiest conceptions of Greek dramatic genius. To Aeschylus belongs in fact the distinction of shaping a nascent art into the grand form : ἄπαν δ' εὐρόντος ἔργον. He

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abridged the effect of time in obliterating the work of his predecessors. His successors might work in the light of his achievements, their understanding and their imagination largely set in motion by his own. He owed the direction of his craftsmanship to none greater than himself. He was, in a word, the legislator of the tragedy of the world. He did not seek to make his art conform to the taste of the day but to ennoble that taste in the light of an ideal world. Scanning farther horizons he dedicated his work to Time, which his contemporary Pindar called the "lord of the immortals," and "the best protector of just men."

Aeschylus was born in 525-524 according to the tradition commonly accepted in antiquity, a tradition that may be approximately correct. His father was Euphorion, an Athenian of the deme Eleusis. Eleusis had originally been a petty State, the memory of whose independence had not been obliterated in the seventh century—if to this period may be referred the Homeric *Hymn to Demeter*, which records the reign there of a native king. The incorporation of the smaller into the larger community had been attended by religious sanctions dealing with the regulation of the Mysteries, to the initiation into which all men of Hellenic stock were bidden. At Eleusis there existed, until the fourth century at least, qualities of character and taste differentiating its population from that of the native Athenians. Euphorion was a member of the nobility and, as it seems, a man of affluence. By birth Aeschylus stood higher in the social scale than either Sophocles or Euripides. He recognizes the nobility of ancient lineage: "He that is nobly

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born holds in high esteem the throne of Honour," and he describes the possessor of ancient wealth as kind to his slaves. In his sympathy for common people he has more human tenderness than his aristocratic contemporary Pindar; an Athenian noble was built after a different pattern than a Boeotian or a Dorian aristocrat. Despite his social position Aeschylus himself acted in his plays. Nor need this move our surprise. In his time the rôle of the dramatic poet was imperatively associated with that of the actor as it was with skill in music and the orchestric art, a combination of functions that did not impair the ability of its possessor to serve the commonwealth both in the Assembly and in the field. Nor was the gain slight for the youthful drama if poet was likewise actor. The actor must translate into informing sound and sight the creation of his other self.

As an eupatrid¹ Aeschylus was a member of the ancient aristocracy, the creation of which legend referred to Theseus. The political privileges of those families, found in all the various *gentes* which were distinguished for wealth and power, had indeed been finally swept away by the reforms of Cleisthenes along with many of the old local rites in which they had borne a prominent part. Their

¹ The name is here applied as a general designation of the "nobility" and not as the name of a special family, the Eupatridae. This family (*γένος*), it may be remarked, was excluded from the cult of the Eumenides, the defenders of mother-right, apparently because of its connexion with Orestes, the champion of the father-right. It has been conjectured that Orestes was regarded as the ancestor of the *γένος* and the first "interpreter" concerning the purification of suppliants in cases of murder. See Töpffer, "Der eleusinische Priesteradel" in his *Attische Genealogie*.

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social prestige, however, and their controlling influence in the formal conduct of religious offices in the State still existed for a century later. They had been connected with the introduction of the worship of Dionysus, and it is probable that recourse was had to them by men seeking purification from pollution because of blood-guiltiness.¹ At Eleusis the eupatrid family of the Eumolpidae regulated the observance of the ritual of the Mysteries, furnished the hierophant for the festival, constituted the college of interpreters of the sacred law, and in certain cases formed the court to pronounce judgment in trials for impiety. Another eupatrid clan, the Ceryces, provided the priests of less importance, and, together with the Eumolpidae, had charge of the rites of initiation. To which of the several eupatrid families of Eleusis the poet belonged, is unknown; but his birth under the shadow of the famous sanctuary of purer religious aspiration ensured to his youth a period in which the subtler influence of the holy Mysteries of the Mother and the Maid might germinate and prepare him for his mission, not as a mystagogue, but as the religious teacher of his people through the medium of dramatic art.

While the probability of this influence upon the growing poet may not be gainsaid, there nevertheless remains the problem whether or not he was actually an initiate, and, if such, so conversant with the ritual in its completeness that he might not be unfamiliar with features which it would be sacrilege to divulge. Was it that his independence of current ethics and his tendency to mythological heresies,

¹ Dorotheus in Athen. 410a (with O. Müller's correction of *Θυγατριδῶν* to *Εὐπατριδῶν*).

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of which the tragedies give ample evidence, was it that too close proximity to the shrine, caused him to feel no need of the Eleusinian consecration? Aristotle, however, reports, and his authority is seemingly confirmed by Clement of Alexandria, that the poet, when charged with impiety for divulging certain features of the Mysteries, sought to exculpate himself on the plea that his error was due to inadvertence, since he had not observed that the matters in question were comprised within the secrets of their rites. Heracleides Ponticus, a disciple of Aristotle, supplies the (probably unauthentic) details that Aeschylus had nearly been put to death in the theatre but escaped only by taking refuge at the altar of Dionysus; and that, when brought to trial before the Areopagus, he was absolved chiefly because of his heroism at Marathon. But neither Heracleides nor Aelian, who also knows the precise circumstances of the affair, knows enough to name the piece or the matter of Aeschylus' indiscretion. The specific matter of offence (as the title of the offending play or plays) was in fact unknown to the ancients; while their various conjectures and those of the moderns, especially the suggestion that the *Eumenides* furnished the occasion of the charge, lack plausibility. It is quite probable, in the absence of a sacerdotal caste, which safeguards but does not make theological belief, that the poet's alleged profanation was concerned, not with any secret doctrines of a creed (the Eleusinian Mysteries were essentially not dogmatic, and Aristophanes did not scruple to reproduce their formulas with only slight alteration), but with some purely formal aspect of the dramatic symbolism regarded as sacred in the

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rites. The crowd fastens rather on neglect of ritual than on theological heterodoxy. Aeschylus was indeed given to expressions of speculative theological opinion, but his orthodoxy, unlike that of Dante, seems not to have been involved. The fact of the accusation, however, remains though no poet of Greece was so profoundly permeated by a fervent religious spirit as was Aeschylus.¹ Whatever the original application of the verses put by Aristophanes into the mouth of Aeschylus at the outset of his encounter with Euripides (*Frogs*, 886-887) in the lower world, the first, at least, we know to have been composed by the older poet,

O thou that nourishedst my young soul, Demeter,
Make thou me worthy of thy Mysteries.

Unless Aristophanes is guilty of the very fault with which literary biography as instituted by the Peripatetics has been charged—the attribution to the personality of the poet of words wrested from a dramatic situation—it is tolerably evident that he regarded Aeschylus as an initiate. But whether or not he learned the holy rites of Demeter at his native home, it was not from Eleusis, but from Marathon and Salamis, that he received the consecration that made him the expounder of the laws of God.

As an Eleusinian the poet was open to the influences of the neighbouring Athens, where one

¹ Aeschylus was the first of the many "enlightened" thinkers who were brought to court for their irreligion: Diagoras, Anaxagoras, Protagoras, Socrates, Stilpon, Aristotle, and Theodorus; Andocides was tried for violation of the Mysteries. Euripides had to rewrite the beginning of his *Wise Melanippe*.

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part of the chief celebration of the Mysteries was held ; and we may not underestimate the possible further stimulus given to his youthful imagination by the presence in Athens under Hipparchus, the son of Peisistratus, of men familiar with ancient hieratic poetry, oracles, and the rites of expiation, at a time of spiritual ferment when, under the influence of an uplifted religious and moral sense, men were striving to attain purity and relief from the consciousness of sin. The poet, whose works disclose few, if any, direct traces of the influence of the Mysteries of Eleusis, was undoubtedly conversant with ideas derived from the Mysteries connected with the name of Orpheus and associated with the teachings of Pythagoras. Some of his references to the judgment and punishment after death of those guilty of crime in this world are derived in all probability from Orphic sources.

An embattled poet, Aeschylus saw service at Marathon in the first great encounter with the Persian invaders ; and at Salamis he may have been one of the heavy-armed troops who, under the leadership of Aristides, cut down the force stationed on the island of Psyttalea. Romance, in the desire to heighten the fame of the soldier-poet, made him take part also at Artemisium and Plataea ; and certain modern scholars, making much of the poet's references to localities and knowledge of the cults of the north, would have him participate in the Thracian campaign of Cimon (who, in 476-475, reduced the fortress of Eion commanding the mouth of the Strymon), and perhaps in some of the expeditions to recover the settlements on the Thracian coasts that continued for several years.

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Between 476 and 473 (the year before the *Persians* was produced) it is possible that the poet made his first visit to King Hiero. A friend of letters, and himself a judge of no little taste, that Sicilian prince had raised his court to such eminence that poets of the highest genius in the home country, Pindar, Simonides, and Bacchylides, found it convenient to accept the hospitality and the douceurs of a patron than whom none knew better the art of exacting no subservience from those acclaimed in Greece as the sovereign artists of their times. Aeschylus' first visit to the west may have been connected with the celebration incident to Hiero's re-establishment in 476-475 of the city of Etna. In the *Women of Etna*, the poet, leaving the highways of Pan-Hellenic mythology, found in the ancient local cults of the Sicels divine warrant for the auguries of prosperity which he drew for the founders of the city at the base of the mountain, the eruption of which in 479-478 (or, according to Thucydides, in 476-475) inspired the famous passage in the *Prometheus* (347 ff.) and the still more splendid description in Pindar's ode to Hiero. Aeschylus may have witnessed the eruption in person, but his picture of the scene is less vivid than that of the lyric poet; if he wrote the passage after a considerable interval, it may well be that he was deliberately entering the lists with Pindar, whose poem was composed in 470. Be that as it may, no one of his fellow-craftsmen at the Syracusan court might enter the lists with Aeschylus when he reproduced there the *Persians*, his battle-piece already crowned with the first prize at Athens. Aeschylus now went to Sicily not to win fame but to receive the reward of fame.

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Small wits regard the great only in the light of their own pettiness ; and Aeschylus, quitting Greece for Sicily was constantly accounted for in antiquity on the score of his having tasted the root of bitterness because other poets, Simonides and Sophocles, were preferred to himself, or because he could not brook the spirit of the times. The fable that Aeschylus retired to Sicily because of vexation at his defeat at the hands of Sophocles is as trivial as it is absurd. In the very same year in which Sophocles was victorious (468), the older poet must have been in Athens composing his *Oedipodea* for the dramatic festival of the next year. The cause of his departure to Sicily in 458, after the production of the *Oresteia*, still remains obscure. Much has been made of the possible discontent of the poet (conservative, like other great artistic minds, in his political sympathies) at the growing influence of the party opposed to Cimon. The times may well have seemed out of joint to an Athenian of the days of Aristides, and now taking the twilight view of life. A new and rash generation, lacking the old-time spirit of reverence, was forging to the front. Ephialtes, in conjunction with Pericles, had attacked the bulwark of the aristocracy, the Council of the Areopagus. The opposition, beginning with a movement leading to the expulsion of some of the members of that ancient body on the charge of peculation, culminated in an assault on its wardenship of the laws and of the formal respect due the gods that left, as the only important function of the Council, its former jurisdiction in cases of murder (462). Pericles had carried a bill providing for payment of juries, and the archons had been given a dole for

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daily maintenance. Political passion ran high. In 461 or 460 Ephialtes had been murdered. Ostracism, which had removed Megacles, Xanthippus, Aristides, and Themistocles, now in 461 drove Cimon from the scene of party conflict. In the *Eumenides* the poet, taking a position above the tumult of partisan ambitions, enforces his doctrine of reconciliation. Loyally accepting the law that had transformed the character of the Areopagus, he urges in that play a cessation of the rancorous feud of factions, and enters his solemn protest against further innovations, doubtless with reference to the proposal (made in the very year of the *Oresteia*) to admit to the archonship, and therewith to the Areopagus, members of the third property class. But if Aeschylus was less detached than Sophocles or Goethe from the things of the present, he may not fairly be charged with narrow partisan zeal at home. Salamis had already inspired him with Pan-Hellenic sympathies. Patriotism, national no less than cantonal, was, together with religious fervour, the inspiration of his genius.

After all, though we cannot gainsay the possibility of the poet's discontent with the course of events at home, Aeschylus was not likely to be a man, like some moderns, to quit his fatherland in disgust. Perhaps he had no profounder urgency than to arrange for the reproduction of his last trilogy.

At Gela in Sicily the poet died in 456-455. The fine funeral epigram, which, in the spirit of the fifth century, discerns his distinction only in the citizen-soldier and not in the poet, was composed, in all probability, at Athens, and shortly after his death.

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This tomb the dust of Aeschylus doth hide,
Euphorion's son, and fruitful Gela's pride,
How tried his valour Marathon may tell
And long-haired Medes who know it all too well.¹

The recognition accorded the poet continued long after his death: the reproduction of his plays was ensured by public enactment. His tragic genius passed, in some degree, to his son and to descendants of his sister.

The identification of a noble bust in the Capitoline Museum as that of Aeschylus rests on no surer foundation than the comparison, first made by Melchiorri, with a glass paste,² which has been regarded either as allegorical, after the style of the *Apotheosis of Homer*, or as an allusion to the legend that the poet met his death by an eagle's letting a tortoise fall upon his bald head in mistake for a rock—a legend that appropriately found a place in Sir Thomas Browne's *Vulgar and Common Errors*. The Berlin gem may be modern, but the story of a tortoise thus having broken the skull of a bald-headed man was referred to by Democritus in the fifth century in his discussion of the relation of design to chance; and in some fortuitous fashion it may have been fastened on Aeschylus, though other famous personages, such as Pheidias, Hippocrates, and Diogenes, also possessed the necessary physical qualification in question.

¹ Αἰσχύλον Εὐφορίωνος Ἀθηναῖον τόδε κεῖθαι
μνῆμα καταφθίμενον πυροφόροιο Γέλας·
ἀλκὴν δ' εὐδόκιμον Μαραθῶνιον ἄλσος ἂν εἴποι
καὶ βαθυχαιτήεις Μῆδος ἐπιστάμενος.

The translation given is Plumptre's.

² Now in Berlin: Furtwängler, *Beschreibung der geschnittenen Steine in Berlin*, 9628.

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Aeschylus was, as Milton said of Spenser, "a sage and serious poet." If we must cast out of court any attempt to make the Capitoline bust disclose an intimation of the temperament, if not the character, of the man, his works betray some refraction of himself. They have the veritable accent of personality. The poet who conceived the *Prometheus* and the *Oresteia* must have been a man of infinite depth, whose soul was set on the great things of life—*sempre il magnanimo si magnifica in suo cuore*. A Puritan like Milton, we conceive him as a nature strongly virile; stern, if not austere, holding himself aloof from common ways of thought; setting a high estimate upon himself; not sullen, because he possessed humour; he resembles Ezekiel, but the Hebrew prophet does not unbend as Aeschylus unbends.

Aeschylus' first play was produced in 499, his last in 458. In all he composed at least ninety tragedies and satyr plays, united, as a rule, in groups of four. The members of the tragic trilogy were not invariably connected in subject matter or even held together by any ideal bond of the moral or spiritual interrelation of mythical themes. The poet will not have failed to preserve his freedom of treatment even after he had created the dramatic cycle. The degrees of interconnexion may well have varied; in the case of the *Persians*, which is interposed between dramas of legendary character, it is probable that the free form of composition was deliberately preferred. He won the first prize thirteen times and for the first time only in 484, thus disproving the truth of Joseph de Maistre's saying: *Qui n'a pas vaincu à trente ans, ne vaincra jamais*. Seven plays, ex-

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empted from the wrong of time, are all that remain. They represent a collection made some time after Christ, and not earlier than the second century. The *Oresteia* was his most famous work, and its separate members were so closely connected that the preservation of one seems to have entailed the preservation of the others. The *Prometheus Bound* was unique in subject and appealed to a sense of the marvellous. The *Persians* recorded a triumph of national patriotism; the *Seven against Thebes* breathed the spirit of war. Possibly the beauty of its choral odes and their lofty religious tone protected the *Suppliants* from loss. More celebrated works than some of the survivors disappeared—*habent sua fata libelli*. If we have but little of the father of tragedy, that little is distinguished by a variety which is itself a characteristic of inventive powers of the highest order.

In his earlier years, his competitors Choerilus, Pratinas, and Phrynichus stood higher in popular approval. His first victory was not won until after fifteen years of effort. Even in the period when he had become the foremost tragic poet at Athens he was stirred to emulate his rivals in fields already marked as their own. Phrynichus, who had realized the tragic possibilities of themes drawn from contemporaneous history whose pathos might form a counterpart to that of the fall of Troy, and who had depicted the capture of Miletus, anticipated him in dramatizing the disaster of the Persians, the catastrophe already effected before the opening of the play, and the scene relegated to the Orient; whereas Aeschylus handled the theme with deeper psychological insight, more telling effect and greater power to envisage the spirit of an entire nation. Phry-

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nichus had, too, in all probability, preceded him in dealing with the myth of the Danaïds. "Poet is heir to poet, now as of yore."

Aeschylus' chief formal innovations consist in the reduction of the rôle of the chorus and above all in the addition of a second actor. This increase over the single actor of Thespis, in making possible the conflict of opposing wills, a more complete impersonation, and an organic advance in the action, stamps Aeschylus the true founder of the drama. Three persons (the coryphaeus included) were now available as speakers in a single scene. In the simpler plays the choral outweighs the dramatic element. In the *Suppliants* the chorus is the main figure, as it is to some extent in the *Persians*; in the *Oresteia* it has become a vital factor in the dramatic economy. The *Suppliants* is ancient tragedy still in swaddling-clothes, the *Oresteia* is tragedy in its full maturity. The poet had not hesitated in his older years to recognize the significance of the introduction of the third actor by the young Sophocles, audacious at his first leap into fame. "It is ever a joy for the old to learn," he said, pliant still when nearly seventy years of age. His later bettered his earlier work. His career is thus, at least in the sphere of dramatic craftsmanship, the record of a steady development of a poetic faculty inspired by genius of the highest order, a development suggesting the analogy of the greatest of English dramatists, much of whose early work consisted in refurbishing the works of other playwrights.

For his fables Aeschylus had, as his chiefest source, the large treasure-house of the epic, a mass of heroic

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poetry, in his age still associated with the author of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*—poetry whose substance was the legends of the olden times, refined by the taste and magnified by the art of the wandering minstrels, appealing to the common interests of the race and deriving its sanctity by the presence therein of the gods of the national faith and the human foretypes of the national ideals. In that heroic world Aeschylus lived as the modern dramatist lives in the world of his own day and generation. Homer had come to Athens with a new insistence since the recitation of his poems had been established as a fixed feature of the Pan-Athenaic festival, inaugurated or revived by Peisistratus. The old-time ways of thought were now invaded by a stream of epic, pre-eminently Ionic legend, and of this increment to the imagination Aeschylus, together with Pindar, was the first to see the possibilities for a poetic art that was to reflect the new spirit of the age. The limitations of life through custom, law, and religion in a people largely agrarian were now confronted by the limitless fancy of their kindred across the Aegean. Homer, above all other of the older poets, set the mind of Aeschylus in motion. The legends of the national epic poet, charged with the new-born Attic spirit as yet untroubled by the critical and mocking spirit born of the development of subjective thought in the time of Euripides, were to become the means to body forth a world in which God directs the affairs of men. With Aeschylus, the myth derived from Homer forms the very fabric of his work, and not, as in Pindar, an accessory element employed to illustrate and adorn. With Aeschylus, the myth serves to instruct and to elevate; and, in its tragic setting, appealed

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to as wide a commonality of interest as that served by the epic, far wider than that served by the elegy or choral lyric. The epic spirit pervades Aeschylus' handling of his themes. He has epic breadth, epic vigour, epic picturesqueness. But it was not in reference to any other element than their epic substance that the poet, conscious of his indebtedness to the sovereign bard, declared that his dramas were morsels from the great banquet of Homer ; as if he were one of the heroes, to whose portion, according to popular fancy, crumbs that fell from the table were assigned. Aeschylus, in fact, gave to the drama its tragic stamp by opening to it the epic domain.

It is the distinction of Aeschylus that he discerned in the heroic tales of the epic subjects fit for tragic art. His myths are drawn by preference from the Trojan, Argive, and Theban cycles, and have their source in *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, in the Cyclic epics, in Hesiod ; and at times are influenced by their modification at the hands of the choral lyrists, especially Stesichorus. His predecessors did not, it seems, favour legends taken from the story of Achilles and Odysseus ; while Sophocles is more dependent than he upon *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

Connected with the Trojan War are the *Carians* or *Europe*, which dealt with the story of Sarpedon, the son of Zeus, whom Patroclus slew in battle ; the *Myrmidons*, *Nereïds*, *Ransom of Hector*, forming a trilogy whose themes were the death of Patroclus, the forging of the new arms of Achilles, the death of Hector and the mission of Priam to secure the body of his son, all having as their central figure the hero of the *Iliad*, whom Aeschylus, vying as it were, with

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Homer, recognizes as a truly tragic personage. In the *Psychostasia* ("Weighing of Souls"), Zeus himself, who in Homer is never seen by mortal eyes, was ensaged holding aloft the balance, one scale of which bore the soul of Achilles, the other that of Memnon, while Thetis and Aurora implore his favour each for her own son. The *Psychagogoi* ("Raising of Souls"), *Penelope*, *Ostologoi* ("Gatherers of Bones"), and *Circe*, dealt with the summoning of the spirits in Hades by Teiresias, and the adventures and death of Odysseus. Other Trojan subjects found a place in the *Mysians* and the *Telephus*, in the *Palamedes* and in the *Philoctetes*.

Argive legends occupy a place of peculiar importance in the extant work. First there are two tetralogies, consisting, in the one case, of the prehistoric *Suppliants*, *Egyptians*, *Danaïds*, with the satyr-play *Amymone*; in the other, of the *Agamemnon*, *Libation-Bearers*, *Eumenides*, with the satyric *Proteus*. The *Prometheus* and the *Seven against Thebes* also have a connexion with Argos. Further, by the *Nemea*, *Argives*, *Eleusinians*, and by the *Net-Dragers*, *Seriphians*, *Phorcydes*, a group dealing with the story of Perseus.

Theban legends occur in the *Oedipodea* (*Laius*, *Oedipus*, *Seven against Thebes*, and *Sphinx*); and in three trilogies treating of themes connected with the orgiastic cult of Dionysus. Of these the most important was the *Lycurges*, consisting of the *Edoni*, *Bassaræ*, *Neaniskoi*, *Lycurgus*, and dealing with the conflict (and possibly the reconciliation) of the religion of Apollo-Dionysus and that of Apollo-Helios championed by Orpheus. Kindred in theme are the *Nurses of Dionysus*, *Bacchants*, *Xantriae*, *Pentheus*,

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Semele, Alcmena. The *Heracleidae* also belongs in the Theban cycle.

Further legendary themes dealt with the story of the Argonauts, with Ajax and the contest for the arms of Achilles, the Calydonian Boar Hunt, *Oreithyia, Niobe*, etc. Legends extant in his own day in localities outside of Attica he collected from the mouth of the people and interwove into the *Women of Aetna* and *Glaucus of the Sea*. It is in his preference for pre-Hellenic myths and especially for superhuman subjects that the poet differs most from his successors. The birth of Dionysus and the introduction of his worship into Thrace and Thebes, had peculiar attraction for him. His large imagination was at home in the realm of the prodigious, the marvellous, and the stupendous—in the *Promethea* with its Titan hero; in the *Psychagogoi*, the *Psychostasia*; in the *Toxotides* ("Archer-Maidens"), he portrayed the offence and punishment of Actaeon; in the *Phineus*, the Harpies befoul the food of the hero; in the *Heliades*, Phaëthon drives to his ruin the steeds of the sun-god; in the *Xantriae* the poet did not hesitate to introduce the Queen of Heaven in the guise of a priestess. He seems to have had a fondness for creatures of the sea, such as Glaucus, the daughters of Ocean, the daughters of Phorceys, the Nereïds. Aeschylus was not content with the earth as the place of the tragic action; the scene of the *Psychostasia* was laid in Olympus, that of the *Sisyphus*, in Hades. His successors restricted the appearance of the gods and confined their epiphanies to the world of men.

Of the plays found only in fragments and not connected with the extant dramas, the most popular

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seem to have been the *Europe*, the trilogy consisting of the *Myrmidons*, *Nereïds*, and *Ransom of Hector*, the *Lycurges*, *Philoctetes*, *Psychostasia*, and *Niobe*.

The *Persians* was produced in 472, the *Seven against Thebes* in 467, the *Oresteia* in 458. On internal grounds the *Suppliant Maidens* may be placed before the poet's first recorded victory (484); the *Prometheus*, either between the *Persians* and the *Seven* or between the *Seven* and the *Oresteia*.

EDITIONS

I. ALL THE PLAYS

1518, Aldine. 1552, Turnebus. 1552, Robortelli. (These three editions give only those parts of the Agamemnon found in the mutilated Medicean ms. In the Aldine and Turnebus Agam. 1159 is joined without a break to the mutilated beginning of the Choeph. Robortelli first separated the two plays.) 1557, Vettori (Victorius), first edition giving the Agam. entire (with observations by the printer, H. Stephanus). 1580, Canter. 1663, Stanley. 1745, Pauw. 1782-1794 (and 1809-1821) in 5 vols., 1800 (and 1827) in 2 vols., Schütz. 1794 (1795, 1806), Porson. 1794 (An III), La Porte du Theil. 1805 (1831), Bothe. 1809, Butler. 1812, Weise. 1817 (1827), Schäfer. 1823-30, Wellauer. 1825, Boissonade. 1827-69 (various editions), W. Dindorf. 1828 (1830), Scholefield. 1839, Doukas (mod. Greek). 1842, E. A. J. Ahrens. 1847, Paley (with Latin notes). 1852 (1859), G. Hermann. 1852-55, Hartung. 1853-54, Buckley. 1855 (1889), Paley (with English notes). 1858-67, Weil (text only, 1884, 1907). 1871, Merkel

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(transcript of the Medicean ms.). 1880, Kirchhoff. 1885-93, Wecklein. 1891-1910, Wecklein (with notes in modern Greek). 1898, Campbell. 1899(1902), Sidgwick. 1914, Wilamowitz-Moellendorff. 1920-1925, Mazon.

Translations : (English verse)—1777 (1779), Potter. 1850, Blackie. 1868 (1872), Plumptre. 1873 (1890), Swanwick. 1890, Campbell. 1881, 1908, Morshead. 1903, Goldwin-Smith (except Suppliants). 1906-1908, Way.

English Prose—1822 (1843), Anonymous (Oxford). 1849 (1876), Buckley. 1864 (1871), Paley. 1893, Campbell (Oresteia). 1909, Headlam (W. and C. E. S.).

II. SEPARATE PLAYS

AGAMEMNON : 1787, Wolf. 1818 ff., Blomfield. 1822, Tyrwhitt. 1822, Lafontaine. 1822, Prieur. 1830, Scholefield. 1833, Klausen. 1837, C. G. Haupt. 1839, G. C. W. Schneider. 1839 (1844), Peile. 1845, Paley (Oresteia). 1846, Franz (Orestie). 1847 (1869), Felton. 1847, Prieur. 1848, Conington (w. verse transl.). 1855, Enger. 1855, Karsten. 1856, Schneidewin. 1863, Keck. 1863, Nägelsbach. 1863, Enger (Klausen). 1864, Heusde. 1868, J. F. Davies (w. verse transl.). 1868, Weyrauch. 1874, Gilbert (Enger). 1878 (1882), B. H. Kennedy (w. verse transl.). 1880, Paley. 1881 (1905), Sidgwick. 1883, Hense (Schneidewin). 1884, Margoliouth. 1885, Wilamowitz-Moellendorff. 1888, Wecklein (Orestie). 1889 (1904), Verrall (w. prose transl.). 1895, Plüss (Enger). 1889, Blaydes. 1904, Proctor and Kenyon (Oresteia). 1910, Headlam-Pearson (w. verse transl.).

*Translations*¹ : 1823, Boyd (prose). 1824, Symmons. 1829, J. Kennedy. 1831, Harford. 1832, Medwin. 1839, Fox. 1846, Sewell. 1848, Anonymous. 1849, Herbert. 1852, Peters. 1855, Blew. 1865,

¹ The translations of the separate plays are in verse unless otherwise indicated. Translations appended to editions of the separate plays are mentioned under the name of the editor.

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Milman. 1869, Dalton (Orestea). 1876, Fitzgerald. 1877, Browning. 1879, Earl of Carnarvon. 1880, Anonymous (prose). 1886, Students of the University of Sydney (prose). 1888, Anonymous (prose). 1890, Cooper (Orestea). 1893, Campbell (Orestea, prose). 1900, Warr (Orestea). 1900 (1911), Sixth Form Boys of Bradfield College. 1904, Harman. 1904, Thring. 1906, Goodwin (prose). 1907, Paton. 1911, Platt (prose). 1919, Davis. 1920, Ellis. 1920, Murray. 1920, Trevelyan (Orestea). 1921, Robinson in "The Genius of the Greek Drama."

CHŒPHORŒ: 1729, Oxford. 1774, Foulis press. 1776, Vollborth. 1819, Schwenk. 1822, Lafontaine. 1824 ff., Blomfield. 1825 (1835), Vendel-Heyl. 1835, Klausen. 1840, Peile. 1840, Bamberger. 1844 (1883), Paley. 1845, Paley (Orestea). 1846, Franz (Orestie). 1856, de Jongh. 1857, Conington. 1862, J. F. Davies. 1862 (1889), Paley. 1883, Wecklein (Orestie). 1884, Heyse (Orestie). 1884 (1900), Sidgwick. 1888, Wecklein (Orestie). 1893, Verrall (w. prose transl.). 1896, Wilamowitz-Moellendorff. 1899, Blaydes. 1901, Tucker (w. prose transl.). 1901, Barnett. 1904, Proctor and Kenyon (Orestea). 1906, Blass.

Translations: 1869, Dalton (Orestea). 1890, Cooper (Orestea). 1893, Campbell (Orestea, prose). 1900, Warr (Orestea). 1920, Trevelyan (Orestea). 1923, Murray.

EUMENIDES: 1794, Wakefield. 1799, G. Hermann. 1821, Schwenck. 1822, Burges. 1829, Rhally. 1833, K. O. Müller. 1838, Minckwitz. 1843, Scholefield. 1844, Linwood. 1845, Schömann. 1845, Paley (Orestea). 1846, Franz (Orestie). 1848, Donaldson. 1853 (1870), Drake (w. verse transl.). 1857, Merkel. 1880, Paley. 1884, Heyse (Orestie). 1885, J. F. Davies (w. verse transl.). 1887 (1902), Sidgwick. 1888, Wecklein (Orestie). 1900, Blaydes. 1901, Barnett. 1901, Plaistowe (w. prose transl.). 1904, Proctor and Kenyon (Orestea). 1907, Blass. 1908, Verrall (w. prose transl.).

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Translations: 1855, Swayne. 1869, Dalton (Oresteia). 1882, Prowett. 1885 (1906), Verrall (prose and verse). 1890, Cooper (Oresteia). 1893, Campbell (Oresteia, prose). 1900, Warr (Oresteia). 1920, Trevelyan (Oresteia).

PERSIANS: 1779, Brunck. 1814 ff., Blomfield. 1825, Lange and Pinzger. 1830 (1860, 1878), A. N. (Paris). 1830 (1839), C. G. Haupt. 1837, G. C. W. Schneider. 1837, Lécuse. 1847, Paley. 1853, Meineke. 1866, Teuffel. 1869, Schiller. 1869, Merkel. 1876, Oberdick. 1879 (1884), Weil. 1879 (1907), Prickard. 1880, Paley. 1884 (1889), Weil. 1888, Conradt (Schiller). 1899, Weil. 1901, Inama. 1902, Jurenka. 1901, Wecklein (Teuffel). 1903, Sidgwick. Undated, Haydon.

Translations: 1829, Palin. 1855, Wood (prose). 1873, Staunton. 1873, Gurney. (1890) Cooper. 1893, Crooke (prose). 1922, Cookson.

PROMETHEUS: 1548, Auratus. 1559, Garbitius. 1567, H. Stephanus. 1575, Benenatus. 1763, (Gesner). 1767, Morell. 1779, Brunck. 1781 (1826), Lange. 1781, Schütz. 1812 ff., Blomfield. 1826, C. G. Haupt. 1829 Anon. (Maire-Nyon). 1829, Lebas. 1831, Burges. 1834, G. C. W. Schneider. 1834, Griffiths. 1835, Vendel - Heyl. 1837 (1877), Woolsey. 1839, Minckwitz. 1844, Schoemann. 1845 (1865), Stiévenant. 1846, Richmond. 1846, Paley. 1851, Donaldson. 1853, Meineke. 1862 (1879), James Davies. 1870, L. Schmidt. 1870, Watson. 1872 (1893), Wecklein. 1874, Pinder. 1874, Guigniaut. 1878 (1907), Prickard. 1883, Mather. 1884 (1906), Weil. 1885, Stephenson. 1887 (1901), Glazebrook. 1887, Plaistowe and Masom (w. prose transl.). 1891, Wecklein (transl. by Allen). 1896, Haines. 1898, Sikes and Willson. 1900, Plaistowe and Mills (w. prose transl.). 1901, Laurence. 1903, Rackham. 1904, Valgimighi. 1905, Harry. 1905, Case.

Translations: 1822, Anonymous (prose). 1823, Edwards (prose). 1832, Medwin. 1833, Miss Barrett (Mrs. Browning). 1835, Fox. 1839, Giles.

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1843, Thoreau. 1846, Swayne. 1848 (1881), Mongan (prose). 1849, Herbert. 1852, Clifford. 1866, Webster. 1867, Cayley. 1870, Lang. 1870, Perkins (prose). 1889, More (prose). 1890, Cooper. 1892, Earl of Carnarvon. 1892 (1902), Hailstone. 1895, Pember. 1896, Denman. 1902, Bevan. 1903, Bouchier. 1905, Case. 1907, Whitelaw. 1916, Wier. 1920, Harman (prose and verse). 1922, Cookson.

SEVEN AGAINST THEBES: 1581, Caselius. 1585, Morell (printer). 1758, Burton (re-edited by Burgess 1779). 1779, Brunck. 1812 ff., Blomfield. 1818, Schwenk. 1822, Prieur. 1825, Trollope. 1828, Lefranc. 1829, C. G. Haupt. 1834, G. C. W. Schneider. 1835, Griffiths. 1835, Vendel-Heyl. 1840, Pillon. 1847, Paley. 1853 (1875), Ritschl. 1864 (1878), James Davies. 1864, Sachtleben. 1868, Alexanderson. 1878 (1883), Paley. 1887, Verrall (w. prose transl.). 1884 (1894), Flagg. 1888, Verrall and Bayfield. 1897 (1900), Plaistowe (w. prose transl.). 1902, Wecklein. 1903, Sidgwick. 1908, Tucker (w. prose transl.).

Translations: 1878, Gurney. 1881, Mongan (prose). (1890), Cooper. (1912), Bevan. 1922, Cookson.

SUPPLIANTS: 1821, Burges. 1829, C. G. Haupt. 1832, Grenouille. 1839, Giles (prose). 1844 (1883), Paley. 1858, Schwerdt. 1861, Kruse. 1869, Oberdick. 1889, Tucker (w. prose transl.). 1902, Wecklein. 1922, Cookson.

Translations: 1839, Giles. (1890) Cooper. 1922, Cookson.

FRAGMENTS: 1619, Meursius. 1663, Stanley. 1745, Pauw. 1805 (1844), Bothe. 1816, Butler. 1821, Schütz. 1830 (1869), Dindorf. 1842, E. A. J. Ahrens. 1852 (1859), Hermann. 1855, Hartung. 1856 (1889), Nauck. 1893 (Berlin), 1896 (Athens), Wecklein. 1899 (1902), Sidgwick. Unlisted fragments: Smyth, *Am. Jour. Phil.* xli (1920).

SCHOLIA: of M in Wecklein's ed. 1885; many of the later scholia in Dindorf's ed., vol. iii, 1851; scholia

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in N on *Septem*, in Dindorf, *Philologus* xx, xxi (1863-64); on *Prometheus*, in Smyth, *Harvard Stud. in Class. Phil.* xxxii (1921); *Scholia in Persas*, Dähnhardt, 1894.

LEXICA, etc. : Beatson 1830, Linwood 1843, Dindorf 1873-76 (with Supplement by L. Schmidt, 1876), Nauck *Tragicæ dictionis index* 1892. *Aeschylî cantica*, Schroeder, 1907.

MANUSCRIPTS

Of the extant mss. of Aeschylus (over 100 in number) the most ancient and the best (though by no means free from many and gross errors) is the Medicean, written about 1000. An independent tradition appears in certain of the later mss., which are most numerous in the case of *Persians*, *Prometheus*, and *Seven against Thebes*, the plays most read and studied in the Byzantine period. Of the later mss. none is earlier than 1200, a few date from the thirteenth century, while most belong to the three following centuries.

MSS. CITED

- A Ambrosianus 886, cent. xiii, *Theb.* 69-470 with some omissions, *Pers.*
- Arund. Arundelianus (Bodlean. Seldenianus supra 18), xv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*
- Aug. Augustanus (Monacensis 546), xvi, *Eum.* 576 to end.
- B Laurentianus 31. 3, dated 1286 (the last numeral is doubtful), *Prom.*, *Theb.*
- Cant. Cantabrigiensis 2628 (Nn. 3. 17): Cant. 1, xiv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.* 1-1064; Cant. 2, xiv (latter half), *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.* 1-936.
- E Escorialensis T. 1. 15, xvi, *Suppl.*
- F Florentinus 31. 3, xiv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*, *Agam.*, *Eum.* 1-581, 645-777, 808-1047.
- G Guelferbytanus 88 (Wolfenbüttel), xiv, all seven plays with the same omissions as M. *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.* are in a later hand than the other plays.

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- H Heidelbergensis Palatinus 18, xiv, *Prom.* 270-1093, *Theb.*, *Pers.* 1-806, 882-1044.
- K Laurentianus add. 11 (Abbazia Fior. 2886), xiv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*
- Lambeth. Lambethianus 1203, xiv, *Pers.*
- L Laurentianus 32. 2, xiv (begin.), *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.* 1-922.
- Lips. Leipzig, Senatorial Library of the City, 1. 4. 43, xv: Lips. 1 = *Prom.* 159-391, Lips. 2 *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*
- M Laurentianus Mediceus 32. 9, x or xi, seven plays, but lacking *Agam.* 311-1066, 1160-1673, and the beginning of *Choëph.* The Medicean ms. has been published in facsimile by Rostagno, 1896.
- Mosc. Library of the Most Holy Synod at Moscow: 259 = Mosc. 1, xv or xiv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*; 392 = Mosc. 2, xv or xvi, *Prom.*, *Theb.*
- N Neapolitanus (Farnesianus) 2. F. 31, xiv, with the same contents as F. It contains the recension of Demetrius Triclinius and is thought by many to have been written by his own hand.
- P Parisinus 2787, xiv, (begin.), *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*
- Paris 2886. x*, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*, *Eum.*, *Suppl.*
- Q Parisinus 2884, dated 1299, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*
- R Romanus Vaticanus 57, xiv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*
- Rom. Romanus, Bibl. Naz. Vittorio Emmanuele, xv or xvi, *Agam.*
- Reg. 155. Regin. Suec. Vatic., xv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*
- Vat. 58. Vaticanus 58, xv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*
- V Venetus Marcianus 468, xiii, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*, *Agam.* 1-348.
- Ven. 3. Venetus Marcianus 616, xv or xiv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*, *Agam.* 1-45, 1095-1673, *Eum.* 1-581, 645-777, 808-1047.
- Vind. Vienna, Nationalbibliothek: 197 = Vind. 2, xiv-xv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*, *Pers.*; 279 = Vind. 4, xiv, *Prom.*, *Theb.*

Unless otherwise designated a reading cited in the Critical Apparatus is that of M. The later mss. (usually summarized under the abbreviation *recc.*) are generally noted only when they disagree with M. M *recc.* indicates

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that certain of the later mss. agree with M. M¹ M² denote respectively the first and the second hand of M ; m¹ indicates a later hand than M, whether that of the original scribe or that of the Scholiast (Schol. M or m). Obvious misspellings and certain other minor errors or peculiarities of M are not reported. M always uses iota adscript. Fuller information on the readings of the later mss. is given in the second edition of Hermann (1859) and in the edition of Wilamowitz (1914).

The text of Aeschylus was exposed to various forms of corruption long before the writing of the oldest extant manuscript. The autograph copy of the poet, which did not separate the words, was reproduced for the book-trade in the fifth and fourth centuries before Christ ; actors' texts further disturbed the tradition ; the loss of the musical notation played havoc with the more difficult choral odes ; the character of the script changed from age to age ; and the shifting of pronunciation affected the spelling. Not earlier, it seems, than the fourth century after Christ there came into existence a book written in uncials and on parchment, which, in addition to the text of our plays, contained a selection of the commentary thereon by the Alexandrian and later grammarians ; and presented the division of the lyric parts into cola made by Aristophanes of Byzantium. In the ninth century this text, our proper archetype, was transcribed in minuscules, and in more than one copy, each faulty and each containing a somewhat different text and body of explanatory material. From one of these copies in minuscules the Medicean manuscript is derived. This manuscript, written at the end of the tenth or beginning of the eleventh century by an unlearned scribe, is full of errors of the most varied character. Apart from corruptions
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of a more serious nature, it shows falsifications due to current pronunciation, blunders derived from the earlier transcription from uncials into minuscules, omissions and alterations of the proper order of words. Some part of these blemishes were noticed and removed by the scribe of the manuscript; but a greater number was detected by a scholarly reviser, who compared the text as written with its original and, possibly, with one other text at his command. To his hand is also due the addition of interlinear glosses and of marginal interpretations in uncials (the latter often so condensed as to be obscure) and the citation of alternative readings. Sundry later hands have introduced further corrections and alterations derived in part from their sources, which range from the fourteenth to the fifteenth century, in part also from the exercise of independent judgment.

From one or more of the transcripts of the first manuscript in minuscules are derived, directly or indirectly, the oldest of the extant later manuscripts, dating from the end of the thirteenth century and from the fourteenth, which record different readings from those set forth by the Medicean. In part also these variations are due to the scribes themselves or to later scholars desirous of exhibiting their faculty of emendation. In the case of the triad—*Prometheus*, *Seven against Thebes*, and *Persians*, the plays of Aeschylus chiefly read and most often copied in the Byzantine period—the commentary, in the form of glosses and scholia, was enormously expanded, often overloading and confusing the original mass of annotation, and not without serious depredation of the text itself. Most independent of all the later students of Aeschylus in the Byzantine period was

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Demetrius Triclinius, who, despite his grievous falsification of tradition by reason of his perverse theories of metre, at times succeeded in ridding the text of persistent errors. Modern scholarship has removed most of the minor corruptions; but it is obliged to confess that the actual words of the poet are often beyond all hope of successful restoration. The gravest disturbances of the textual tradition antedate any period from which satisfactory testimony can be produced.

The text here presented as the basis of the translation has been constructed on the following principles. The authority of the Medicean is not to be rejected except under the gravest compulsion; the readings of the later manuscripts, whether due to a tradition independent of the Medicean or to subsequent conjecture, are to be admitted only when the readings of the Medicean are untenable; and recourse is to be had to modern conjectures only when the readings of all the manuscripts are impossible or in the highest degree improbable. The Critical Apparatus thus aims to set forth, in a highly condensed form: (1) all departures of the printed text from the readings of the Medicean; (2) the discrepancies between the readings of the Medicean and those of the later manuscripts, regularly when the latter have been adopted, occasionally only when they deserve special attention; and (3) all cases when the readings of all the manuscripts have been deserted in favour of the emendations of scholars from the sixteenth century to the present day.

I am under obligation to all of the critical editors of the poet and to many of his translators.

PARIS, BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE,
April 1922.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

VOL. I

B

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΔΑΝΑΙΔΩΝ

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΡΓΕΙΩΝ

ΚΗΡΤΞ

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

DANAÛS

PELASGUS, King of Argos

HERALD of the Sons of Aegyptus

CHORUS of the Daughters of Danaüs

Attendant Maidens.

SCENE.—A sacred precinct on the shore not far from Argos. Many images of the gods are visible whose collective worship is denoted by a common altar.

TIME.—Prehistoric.

ARGUMENT

Io, daughter of Inachus, King of Argos, was priestess of Hera, whose jealousy of her lord's love for the maiden brought upon her victim marring of mind and body; and she was driven distraught and in the semblance of a heifer made to wander over land and sea until she came to the land of the Nile. There she regained her human form by the mysterious touch of her lover Zeus, and bore a child Epaphus, from whom sprang Libya, and from her Belus and Agenor. Between Belus's two sons, Aegyptus and Danaüs, strife arose, and the fifty sons of Aegyptus wished to possess by forced marriage the fifty daughters of Danaüs. But the maidens, loathing the violence of their kinsmen, fled amain with their father to Argos, the home of their primal mother, and besought sanctuary from the king of that land, Pelasgus.

The hesitation of the king to vindicate to the suppliants the right of asylum, the triumph of that right by vote of the people of Argos, the arrival of the suitors in pursuit, preceded by their herald demanding the surrender of the maidens, and his repulse though threatening war, constitute the action of the play.

The sequel was contained in the Egyptians and the Danaïds. Danaüs, forced to acquiesce in the demands of his nephews, enjoins upon his daughters the duty of killing their bridegrooms on the marriage night. All, save Hypermnestra, obey; she with splendid perfidy spares Lynceus out of love; and when brought to trial is defended by the goddess Aphrodite pleading that love of man and woman is sanctified by the love of Heaven for Earth.

The play cannot be dated with precision, but since it antedates the Persians, is unquestionably the oldest extant drama of European literature.

ΙΚΕΤΙΔΕΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- Zeus mèn áfíktwρ épidoi prophrónwσ
 stólon híméteron náion árhen¹
 ápò proστομίων λεπτοψαμάθων²
 Νείλου. Δίαν δέ λιπούσαι³
 5 χθόνα σύγχορτον Συρία φεύγομεν,
 οὔτιν' έφ' αίματι δημηλασίαν⁴
 ψήφω πόλεωσ γνωσθείσαν,⁵
 άλλ' αὐτογενεῖ φυξανορία,⁶
 γάμον Αἰγύπτου παίδων άσεβή
 10 ξονοταζόμεναι.⁷
 Δαναός δέ πατήρ καὶ βούλαρχος
 καὶ στασίαρχος τάδε πεσσονομῶν
 κύδιστ' άχέων έπέκρανε,
 φεύγειν άνέδην διά κύμ' άλιον,⁸
 15 κέλσαι⁹ δ' "Αργους γαῖαν, όθεν δὴ
 γένος ήμέτερον τῆς οἰστροδόνου¹⁰
 βοός έξ έπαφῆς κάξ έπιπνοίας¹¹
 Διός εύχόμενον τετέλεσται.

Abbreviations: Herm(ann), Rob(ortellus), Turn(ebus),
 Vict(orius), Wilam(owitz).

¹ άρέντ': Turn.

² λεπτομάθων: Pauw.

³ λιπούσαι: Turn.

⁴ δημηλασία: Auratus.

⁵ γνωσθείσαι: M. Schmidt.

⁶ αὐτογέννητον φυλαζάνοραν (λα in erasure): Bamberger.

⁷ όνοταζόμεναι: Tucker.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

[Enter a company of maidens, who have fled from Egypt and just landed on the shores of Argos ; with them their father]

CHORUS

May Zeus, who guardeth suppliants, of his grace look upon our company that took ship and put to sea from the outmost land of fine sand at the outlets of the Nile. For we have fled the land of Zeus¹ whose pastures border upon Syria, and are fugitives, not indeed by public ban of outlawry pronounced for deed of blood, but by our own act to escape the suit of man, since we abhor, as impious, all wedlock with the sons of Aegyptus. It was Danaüs, our sire, author of our counsels and leader of our band, who, weighing well our course, decided, as best for our good report in a choice of evils, that we flee with all speed over the billows of the main and find a haven on Argos' shore. For thence, indeed, hath grown our race that claims to have sprung from the caressing of the gnat-tormented heifer at the hands of Zeus, and from the on-breathing of his love.

¹ Or "the land divine" (δῖαν with M). But see l. 558.

⁸ διακυμ. αλέον M, διακυμβαλέον GP: Canter from Hesychius. .

⁹ κεασαι: Sophianus.

¹⁰ οἰστροδόμον: Turn.

¹¹ ἐπι. νόλας (π erased) M.

AESCHYLUS

- 20 τίν' ἂν οὖν¹ χώραν εὐφρονα μάλλον
 τῇσδ' ἀφικοίμεθα
 σὺν τοῖσδ' ἱκετῶν ἐγχειριδίοις
 ἐριοστέπτοισι² κλάδοισιν;
 ὦ πόλις, ὦ³ γῆ, καὶ λευκὸν ὕδωρ,
 ὕπατοί τε θεοί, καὶ βαρύτμιοι
 25 χθόνιοι θήκας κατέχοντες,
 καὶ Ζεὺς σωτὴρ τρίτος, οἰκοφύλαξ
 ὀσίων ἀνδρῶν, δέξασθ'⁴ ἱκέτην
 τὸν θηλυγενῆ στόλον αἰδοίω
 πνεύματι χώρας· ἄρσενοπληθῇ δ'
 30 ἐσμὸν ὕβριστήν Αἰγυπτογενῇ,
 πρὶν πόδα χέρσω τῇδ' ἐν ἀσώδει
 θεῖναι, ξὺν ὅχῳ ταχυήρει
 πέμψατε πόντονδ'. ἔνθα δὲ λαίλαπι
 χειμωνοτύπῳ, βροντῇ στεροπῇ τ'
 35 ὀμβροφόροισιν τ' ἀνέμοις ἀγρίας
 ἁλὸς ἀντήσαντες, ὀλοιντο,
 πρὶν ποτε λέκτρων, ὧν θέμις εἶργει,
 σφετεριζάμενοι⁵ πατραδέλφειαν⁶
 τήνδ' ἀεκόντων ἐπιβῆναι.

- 40 νῦν δ' ἐπικεκλομένα⁷
 Δῖον πόρτιν ὑπερ-
 πόντιον τιμάορ', ἱνὶν τ'
 ἀνθονομούσας⁸ προγόνου
 βοὸς ἐξ ἐπιπνοίας⁹
 45 Ζηνὸς ἔφαψιν· ἐπωνυμία δ'
 ἐπεκραίνετο μόρσιμος αἰῶν
 εὐλόγως,
 Ἕπαφόν τ' ἐγέννασεν·

[στρ. α.]

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

Nay, to what land more delightful than this could we come with these wool-wreathed branches in our hands, sole weapons of the suppliant? O realm, O land, and clear water; ye gods on high and ye nether powers, grievous in your vengeance, that inhabit the tomb; and thou, Zeus the Saviour, who art invoked third,¹ the guardian of the habitations of righteous men: receive as suppliants this band of women with the compassionate spirit of the land; but the thronging swarm of wanton men born of Aegyptus, ere they set foot upon this marshy land, do ye drive seaward—they and with them their swift barque—and there may they encounter a cruel sea with thunder, lightning, and rain-charged winds, and perish by the tempest's buffeting blasts, ere ever they lay their hands on us, their cousins, and mount unwilling beds from which Right holds them aloof.

And now I invoke, as our champion from beyond the sea, the calf begotten of Zeus, the offspring of the flower-browsing cow, our ancestress, the "caress" of Zeus by his on-breathing—and the appointed period confirmed itself in a name suited to the event, and it was "Epaphus"² that she brought forth.

¹ With reference to the order of invocation in libations: (1) Olympian Zeus, (2) the Heroes, cp. l. 25, (3) Zeus the Saviour. Cp. Frag. 55.

² Epaphus signifies "touch," "caress." See l. 315.

¹ τῖνα. οὐν: Burges.

³ ὦν . . . ὦν: Rob.

⁵ σφετεριζόμενον: Herm.

⁷ ἐπικεκλόμεναι: Turn.

⁹ ἐπιπνολαῖς: Rob.

² ἱεροστέπτοις: Auratus.

⁴ δέξαιθ': Heath.

⁶ πατραδελφίαν: Pauw.

⁸ ἀνθονόμου τὰς: Porson.

50 ὄντ'¹ ἐπιλεξαμένα,
 νῦν ἐν ποιονόμοις
 ματρὸς ἀρχαίας τόποις τῶν
 πρόσθε πόνων μνασαμένα,
 55 τὰ τε νῦν ἐπιδείξω
 πιστὰ τεκμήρια γαιονόμοις,
 τὰ δ' ἄελπτά² περ ὄντα φανεῖται.
 γνῶσεται
 δὲ λόγους τις ἐν μάκει.

εἰ δὲ κυρεῖ τις πέλας οἰωνοπόλων [στρ. β.
 60 ἔγγαιος οἶκτον [οἰκτρὸν]³ αἰών,
 δοξάσει τις ἀκούειν⁴ ὅπα τᾶς Τηρεΐας
 Μήτιδος οἰκτρᾶς ἀλόχου,
 κερκηλάτου τ' ἀηδόνης,⁵

65 αἶτ' ἀπὸ⁶ χλωρῶν πετάλων⁷ ἐργομένα [αὐτ. β.
 πενθεῖ μὲν⁸ οἶκτον ἡθέων·
 ξυντίθησι δὲ παιδὸς μόρον, ὥς αὐτοφόνως
 ὤλετο πρὸς χειρὸς ἔθεν⁹
 δυσμάτορος κότου τυχῶν·

τὼς καὶ ἐγὼ φιλόδουρ- [στρ. γ.
 70 τος¹⁰ Ἰαονίοισι νόμοισι
 δάπτω τὰν ἀπαλὰν
 Νειλοθερῇ παρειᾷ
 ἀπειρόδακρύν τε καρδίαν.
 γοεδνὰ δ' ἀνθεμίζομαι
 75 δειμαίνουσα φίλους,¹¹ τᾶσδε φυγᾶς
 ἀερίας ἀπὸ γᾶς
 εἴ τις ἐστὶ κηδεμών.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

To him I cry for succour. And now in the region wherein our primal mother pastured, by recounting the story of her distress of yore, I shall for the nonce set forth trustworthy assurances to the inhabitants of the land ; and other warranty, though unlooked for, shall yet appear. And men shall come to know the truth as my tale proceeds.

Now if haply there be nigh some dweller in the land who knoweth the notes of birds, when our plaint greets his ear, he will fancy that he hears the voice of Metis, Tereus' piteous wife, the hawk-chased nightingale.

For she, constrained to leave her green leaves, ever maketh dolorous lament for her wonted haunts, and blendeth therewith the tale of her own child's doom—how that he perished, destroyed by her own hand, victim of the wrath of an unnatural mother.

Even so I, indulging my grief in Ionian strains, fret my soft cheek summered by Nile's sun and my heart unexercised in tears ; and I cull the flowers of grief, in anxiety whether there is any friendly kinsman here to champion our band that has fled from the haze-shrouded land.

¹ δὲ ἐγέννασε ἐλόντ' changed to δὲ γέννασ ἐλόνττ' M : Porson.

² τεκμήρια τὰ τ' ἀνόμοια οἶδ' ἀελλπτα : Paley from Herm.

³ [οἰκτρὸν] : Schwenck.

⁴ ἀκούων : Heath.

⁵ ἀηδονῆς : Turn.

⁶ ἀτα(ο M²)πο : Vict.

⁷ χῶρων ποταμῶν τ' : Herm.

⁸ νέον : μὲν Haecker.

⁹ ἔο ἐν : Porson.

¹⁰ φιλοδύρτοις : Heath.

¹¹ φύλους M, φίλους m¹.

ἀλλά, θεοί¹ γενέται, [ἀντ. γ.
 κλύετ' εὖ τὸ δίκαιον ἰδόντες.
 ἥβα² μὴ τέλεον
 80 δόντες ἔχειν παρ' αἴσαν,
 ὕβριν δ' ἐτοίμως στυγοῦντες,³
 πέλοιτ' ἂν ἐνδικοὶ γάμοις.
 ἔστι δὲ κακὸν πολέμου⁴ τειρομένοις
 βωμὸς ἀρῆς⁵ φυγάσιν
 85 ῥύμα, δαιμόνων σέβας.

εὖ δ' εἴη Διόθεν⁶ παναληθῶς. [στρ. δ.
 Διὸς ἥμερος οὐκ εὐθήρατος ἐτύχθη.
 παντᾶ⁷ τοι φλεγέθει
 καὶ σκότῳ μελαίνα ξὺν τύχᾳ⁸
 90 μερόπεσσι λαοῖς.

πίπτει δ' ἀσφαλὲς οὐδ' ἐπὶ νώτῳ, [ἀντ. δ.
 κορυφᾷ Διὸς εἰ κρανθῇ πρᾶγμα τέλειον.
 δαυλοὶ γὰρ πραπίδων
 δάσκιόι τε τείνουσιν πόροι
 95 κατιδεῖν⁹ ἄφραστοι.

ἰάπτει δ' ἐλπίδων¹⁰ [στρ. ε.
 ἀφ' ὕψιπύργων πανώλεις
 βροτούς, βίαν δ'
 οὔτιν' ἐξοπλίζει.
 100 πᾶν ἄπονον¹¹ δαιμονίων.
 ἥμενος ὄν¹² φρόνημά πως
 αὐτόθεν ἐξέπραξεν ἔμπας
 ἐδράνων ἐφ' ἄγνων.

ἰδέσθω δ' εἰς¹³ ὕβριν [ἀντ. ε.
 10

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

But, ye gods of our race, hearken unto me, and regard with favour the cause of righteousness; if ye grant not unto youth to have fulfilment of its unholy desires, but eagerly abhor wantonness, ye would be altogether righteous toward marriage. Even for those who flee hard-pressed from war there is an altar, a shelter 'gainst harm through awe of the powers of heaven.

But may Zeus vouchsafe that in all truth it go well with us. Whereon Zeus hath set his desire, that is hard to trace: verily it flareth everywhere, even in the gloom, howbeit attended by events obscure to mortal man.

Secure it falleth, and not upon its back, whatsoever is decreed unto fulfilment by the nod of Zeus; for the pathways of his understanding stretch dark and tangled, beyond ken to scan.

From their high-towering hopes he hurleth mankind to utter destruction; yet he arrayeth no armed violence—all that is wrought by the powers divine is free from toil. Seated on his holy throne, whence he removeth not, nevertheless in mysterious wise he maketh his thought to deed.

So let him look upon outrage wrought by men,

¹ θεοὶ οἱ: Porson.

² ἦβαι M, ἦ βαι P, ἦ καὶ G, καὶ E.

³ στυγόντες: Turn.

⁴ πτολέμου: Rob.

⁵ ἀρης M, ἀρης G.

⁶ εἰθείη διδς εἰ M (εἰθ' εἴη P): εἰ δ' εἴη Heath: Διόθεν Weil.

⁷ πάντα M, πάντα G, πάντα E.

⁸ μέλαιναι ξυντόχαι M, μέλαιναι ξὺν τόχῃ E: Porson.

⁹ κατειδεῖν MG, κατειδεῖν E.

¹⁰ δὲ ἀπιδῶν: Herm.

¹¹ τὰν ἀποινον: Wellauer.

¹² ἡμενον ἄν: Paley.

¹³ ἐς: Bothe.

AESCHYLUS

- 105 βρότειον, οἷα¹ νεάζει
 πυθμὴν δι' ἅ-
 μὸν γάμον τεθαλῶς²
 δυσπαραβούλοισι φρεσίν,
 καὶ διάνοιαν μαινόλιν³
 110 κέντρον ἔχων ἄφυκτον, ἄταν⁴ δ'
 ἀπάτα⁵ μεταγνοῦς.

τοιαῦτα πάθεα μέλεα θρεομένα λέγω⁶ [στρ. ζ.
 λιγέα βαρέα δακρυοπετῇ,
 ἢ ἢ,

- 115 ἠλέμοισιν ἐμπρεπῇ· [θρεομένη μέλη]⁷
 ζῶσα γόοις με τιμῶ.

ἰλεοῦμαι⁸ μὲν Ἀπίαν βοῦνιν, [ἐφυμν. α.
 καρβᾶνα δ' αὐδὰν

- εὔ, γὰ, κοινεῖς.⁹
 120 πολλάκι δ' ἐμπίτνω ξὺν λακίδι
 λινοσινεῖ¹⁰
 Σιδονία¹¹ καλύπτρα.

θεοῖς δ' ἐναγέα τέλεα πελομένων καλῶς [ἀντ. ζ.
 ἐπιδρομ', ὁπόθι¹² θάνατος ἀπῇ.¹³

- 125 ἰὼ ἰὼ,
 ἰὼ δυσάγκριτοι πόνοι.
 ποῖ τόδε κύμ' ἀπάξει;

ἰλεοῦμαι μὲν Ἀπίαν βοῦνιν, [ἐφυμν. α.
 καρβᾶνα δ' αὐδὰν

- 130 εὔ, γὰ, κοινεῖς.
 πολλάκι δ' ἐμπίτνω¹⁴ ξὺν λακίδι
 λινοσινεῖ
 Σιδονία καλύπτρα.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

how the old stock shoots out afresh in their wooing of us, burgeoning with thoughts of evil intent, its frenzied purpose an irresistible goad, through delusion their minds turned to folly.

Such piteous strains of woe I utter in my plaint, now shrill, now deep, blended with falling tears—strains meet (alas, alas!) for funeral wails; while yet I live, I chant my own dirge.

I invoke the grace of Apia's land of hills (for well, O land, thou canst understand my barbarous speech), and oft I lay my hands upon my Sidonian veil and rend its linen into shreds.

Sacrifices in satisfaction of vows are rendered freely unto Heaven when all fares well, if only there be escape from death. Alas, alas, perplexing troubles! Whither will this wave of trouble bear me away?

I invoke the grace of Apia's land of hills (for well, O land, thou canst understand my barbarous speech), and oft I lay my hands upon my Sidonian veil and rend its linen into shreds.

¹ οἷα M, οἷα E: Schütz.

² τὸ θάλας: Bothe.

³ μενόλιν M, μαινόλιν schol. M.

⁴ ἄται (ι in erasure) M, ἄταν G² Aldina.

⁵ ἀπάται (ι in erasure) M.

⁶ λέγων: Stanley.

⁷ [θρεομένη μέλη] Porson.

⁸ ἰλέωμαι: Wilam.

⁹ εὐακονεῖς (εὐγακόννης l. 130): Boissonade.

¹⁰ λῖνοιςιν ἦι (l. 132 ἀνοιςινῇ): Bücheler, Tucker.

¹¹ σιδονίαι, ν erased, M¹ and so l. 133.

¹² ἐπιδρόμωπρόθι with ο over ω M.

¹³ ὅπηι M: ἀπῇ schol.

¹⁴ ἐνπιτνῶ changed to ἐμπιτνῶ M².

- 135 πλάτα μὲν οὖν λινορραφῆς τε [στρ. η.
δόμος ἄλα στέγων δορός
ἀχείματόν¹ μ' ἔπεμπε σὺν πνοαῖς.²
οὐδὲ μέμφομαι·
τελευτᾶς³ δ' ἐν χρόνῳ
πατήρ μοι⁴ παντόπτας
140 πρευμανεῖς κτίσειεν,

σπέρμα σεμνᾶς μέγα ματρὸς [ἐφυμν. β.
εὐνὰς ἀνδρῶν, ἔ' ἔ,
ἄγαμον ἀδάματον⁵ ἐκφυγεῖν.

θέλουσα δ' αὖ θέλουσαν ἀγνά μ' [ἀντ. η.
145 ἐπιδέτω Διὸς κόρα,
ἔχουσα σέμν' ἐνώπι' ἀσφαλῶς,⁶
παντὶ δὲ σθένει⁷
διωγμοῖς ἀσχαλῶσ'⁸
ἀδμήτας ἀδμήτα
150 ῥύσιος γενέσθω,

σπέρμα σεμνᾶς μέγα ματρὸς [ἐφυμν. β.
εὐνὰς ἀνδρῶν, ἔ' ἔ,
ἄγαμον ἀδάματον ἐκφυγεῖν.

εἰ δέ⁹ μή, μελανθές [στρ. θ.
255 ἡλιόκτυπον¹⁰ γένος
τὸν γάιον,¹¹
τὸν πολυξενώτατον
Ζῆνα τῶν κεκμηκότων
ἰξόμεσθα σὺν κλάδοις
160 ἀρτάναις θανοῦσαι,
μὴ τυχοῦσαι θεῶν Ὀλυμπίων.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

Our oars, indeed, and our timbered barque, girdled with flaxen cordage¹ to withstand the sea, sped me on by help of favouring gales, unharmed of all tempests; nor have I ground of complaint. But may the all-seeing Father stablish a kindly issue in due time—

That the mighty seed of our august mother may escape, unwedded, unvanquished, ah me, the embrace of man.

And may Zeus' pure daughter, she that holdeth in security the stately portal wall, of her gracious will, meeting my will, look upon me; and, grieved at our pursuit, come with all her might, a virgin to a virgin's aid, to deliver me—

That the mighty seed of our august mother may escape, unwedded, unvanquished, ah me, the embrace of man.

Yet, if she will not, we, a swart, sun-smitten race, with suppliant boughs will fare unto the nether Zeus, Zeus the great hospitaler of the dead; for if the gods of Olympus hearken not unto us, we will perish by the noose.

¹ Undergirding ropes (*ὑποζώματα*) to brace a ship's sides. Cp. l. 441.

¹ ἀχιματον: Turn.

² συμπνοιαῖς: Porson.

³ τελευτᾶς: Burges.

⁴ ὁ: μοι Hartung.

⁵ ἀδάμαντον and l. 153: Bothe.

⁶ ἀσφαλῆς: schol.

⁷ σθένος* changed to σθένουσι M: Heath.

⁸ διωγμοῖσι δ' ἀσφαλῆας: Herm.

⁹ εἰδῆ: schol. Turn.

¹⁰ ἡδιδόκτυπον: Wellauer.

¹¹ ταιον: Wellauer.

ἄ Ζήν, Ἰοῦς ἰῶ¹ [έφυμν. γ.
μῆνις μάστεϊρ' ἐκ θεῶν·
κοινῶ δ' ἄγαν²
165 γαμετᾶς οὐρανόνικον.³
χαλεποῦ γὰρ ἐκ
πνεύματος εἰσι χειμῶν.

καὶ τότε οὐ δίκαιοις [ἀντ. θ.
Ζεὺς ἐνέξεται⁴ λόγοις,
170 τὸν τᾶς βοῶς
παῖδ' ἀτιμάσας, τὸν αὐ-
τός ποτ' ἔκτισεν γόνῳ,
νῦν ἔχων παλίντροπον
ὄψιν ἐν λιταῖσιν·
175 ὑψόθεν δ' εὖ κλύοι καλούμενος.

<ἄ Ζήν, Ἰοῦς ἰῶ [έφυμν. γ.
μῆνις μάστεϊρ' ἐκ θεῶν·
κοινῶ δ' ἄγαν
γαμετᾶς οὐρανόνικον
χαλεποῦ γὰρ ἐκ
πνεύματος εἰσι χειμῶν.>⁵

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

176 παῖδες, φρονεῖν χρή· ξὺν φρονοῦντι δ' ἤκετε⁶
πιστῶ γέροντι τῷδε ναυκλήρῳ πατρί.
καὶ τὰπὶ χέρσου νῦν προμηθίαν⁷ λαβὼν⁸
αἰνῶ φυλάξαι τᾶμ' ἔπη δελτουμένας.
180 ὄρῳ κόνιν, ἄναυδον ἄγγελον στρατοῦ·
σύριγγες οὐ σιγῶσιν ἀξονήλατοι·
ὄχλον δ' ὑπασπιστήρα καὶ δορυσσόον
λεύσσω, ξὺν ἵπποις καμπύλοις τ' ὀχήμασιν·
16

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

Ah Zeus, 'tis through poisonous hate of Io that vengeance from the gods pursueth us.¹ I ken thy consort's spite that subdueth all heaven; for upon a stubborn wind followeth a stormy sea.

And Zeus shall then be liable to the charge of injustice that he hath contemned the child of the heifer, the child whom he himself begat of yore, his very own, now that he holdeth his face averted from our prayers. Nay, may he from on high hearken to our call!

Ah Zeus, 'tis through poisonous hate of Io that vengeance from the gods pursueth us. I ken thy consort's spite that subdueth all heaven; for upon a stubborn wind followeth a stormy sea.

DANAÛS

My children, ye must be prudent. A prudent captain of your voyage was your trusty old father here with whom ye came. And now that I have taken forethought also as to what may befall us here ashore, I charge you, record my injunctions on the tablets of your minds and give them good heed.

I desery a dust, the voiceless herald of a host; the axle-driven wheels are not silent in their sockets. I behold a throng, armed with shields and wielding spears, with steeds and curved chariots.

¹ The assets of public debtors and exiles were ascertained and secured at Athens by officers called *μαστίηρες*.

¹ ἀζηνιοδόσω M with accents apparently erased: ἀ Ζήν, 'Ιοὺς schol. Hartung: ἐφ' Herm., Paley.

² κοινωδάταν M: Bamberger.

³ γαμετοῦρανόνεικον: Vict.

⁵ Ephymnion repeated by Canter.

⁷ προμήθειαν with ι over ει M.

⁴ ἐνεύζεται: Porson.

⁶ ἔκετε: Porson.

⁸ λαβεῖν: Wordsworth.

- 185 τάχ' ἂν πρὸς ἡμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς ἀρχηγέται
ὀπτηῆρες εἶεν ἀγγέλων πεπυσμένοι.
ἀλλ' εἴτ' ἀπήμων εἴτε καὶ τεθηγμένους¹
ὠμῇ ξὺν ὀργῇ τόνδ' ἐπόρνυται στόλον,
ἄμεινόν ἐστι παντὸς εἵνεκ', ὦ κόραι,
πάγον προσίξιν τόνδ'² ἀγωνίων θεῶν.
190 κρεῖσσον³ δὲ πύργου βωμός, ἄρρηκτον σάκος.
ἀλλ' ὥς τάχιστα βάτε, καὶ λευκοστεφεῖς
ἱκετηρίας, ἀγάλματ' αἰδοίου Διός,
σεμνῶς⁴ ἔχουσαι διὰ χερῶν εὐωνύμων,⁵
αἰδοῖα καὶ γοεδνὰ⁶ καὶ ζαχρεῖ⁷ ἔπη
195 ξένους ἀμείβεσθ', ὥς ἐπήλυδας πρέπει,
τορῶς λέγουσαι τάσδ' ἀναιμάκτους φυγὰς.
φθογγῇ⁸ δ' ἐπέσθω πρῶτα μὲν τὸ μὴ θρασύ,
τὸ μὴ μάταιον δ' ἐκ μετωποσωφρόνων⁹
ἔτω προσώπων ὀμματος παρ' ἡσυχου.
200 καὶ μὴ πρόλεσχος μηδ' ἐφολκός ἐν λόγῳ
γένῃ· τὸ τῇδε κάρτ' ἐπίφθονον γένος.
μέμνησο δ' εἴκειν· χρεῖος εἰ ξένη¹⁰ φυγὰς.
θρασυστομεῖν γὰρ οὐ πρέπει τοὺς ἥσσονας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 205 πάτερ, φρονούντως¹¹ πρὸς φρονούντας ἐννέπεις.
φυλάξομαι δὲ τάσδε μεμνήσθαι σέθεν
κεδνὰς ἐφετμάς· Ζεὺς δὲ γεννήτωρ ἴδι.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

- 210 ἴδοιτο δῆτα πρευμενοὺς ἀπ' ὀμματος.

¹ τεθειμένος: Pearson.

² τῶνδ': Turn.

³ κρεῖσσων changed to κρεῖσσον M.

⁴ σεμνός M, σεμνῶς m.

⁵ συνωνύμων M, εὐωνύμων schol. M.

⁶ γοεῖδνα: Rob.

⁷ τὰ χρέα: Geel.

⁸ φθογγή M, φθογγή E: Pauw.

⁹ μετώπῳ σωφρόνων M, μετωποσωφρόνων P: Porson.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

Haply they are the princes of the land come to look on us, apprised by messengers. But be it with harmless intent or whetted with savage wrath that the host urges on this array, 'twere better, damsels, in any case, to seat yourselves at yon mound sacred to the gods there assembled.¹ Stronger than a castle is an altar—'tis a shield invulnerable. Hie ye, and in reverent wise holding in your left hands your white-wreathed suppliant boughs, sacred emblems of Zeus the pitiful, make answer unto the strangers, as beseemeth aliens, in piteous and plaintive language of sore need, telling them clearly of your flight, how it was unstained by deed of blood. Above all let your speech be attended by no boldness, and let no froward glance proceed from out your tranquil eyes, even from countenances marked by a modest front. In your utterance be not forward nor yet lagging—the folk here is exceeding apt to take offence. And remember to be submissive: thou art an alien, a fugitive, and in need. Boldness of speech beseemeth not the weak.

CHORUS

Father, thy words are prudent and they fall on prudent ears. I will take heed of these wise hests of thine, and hold them in remembrance. May Zeus, the author of our race, behold us!

DANAÛS

May he indeed behold you, and with a gracious eye.

¹ ἀγών has here the force of ἀγορά, place of assembly. Cp. l. 222.

¹⁰ εἰξεν ἡ: Sophianus.

¹¹ φρονούντος changed to φρονούντως m.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

208 θέλομι' ἂν ἥδη σοὶ πέλας θρόνους ἔχων.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

207 μὴ νυν¹ σχόλαζε, μηχανῆς δ' ἔστω κράτος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

210 209 ὦ² Ζεῦ,³ κόπων οἴκτιρε⁴ μὴ ἀπολωλότας.⁵

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

κείνου θέλοντος εὖ τελευτήσει τάδε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

καὶ Ζηνὸς ὄρνιν τόνδε νῦν κικλήσκετε.⁶

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καλοῦμεν αὐγὰς ἡλίου σωτηρίους,—

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

ἄγνόν τ' Ἀπόλλω, φυγάδ' ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ θεόν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

215 εἰδὼς ἂν αἴσαν τήνδε συγγνοίη⁷ βροτοῖς.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

συγγνοίτο δῆτα καὶ παρασταίη πρόφρων.

¹ μηνῦν M, μὴ νῦν E: Dindorf. ² ὦ: Vict.
³ ζεὺς M changed to ζεῦ m. ⁴ οἴκτειρε: Kirchhoff.
⁵ Il. 207-210, Hermann's arrangement with lacuna at 212.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

I would fain even now be seated by thy side.

DANAÛS

Then tarry not, but put thy purpose into act.

CHORUS

O Zeus, have pity upon our troubles ere yet we are undone.

DANAÛS

If he but so vouchsafe, all will end well.

CHORUS

[A verse is here lost.]

DANAÛS

Invoke now also yon bird of Zeus.

CHORUS

We invoke the saving beams of the Sun.

DANAÛS

Pure Apollo, too, who, though a god, was exiled once from heaven.

CHORUS

Knowing this our lot, he may well have compassion on mortals.

DANAÛS

May he in truth have compassion, and of his grace stand by to defend.

⁶ κικλίσκεται changed to κικλήσκεται M: Rob., κικλήσκετε Wilam.
⁷ εὐγνώη: Lobeck.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τίν' οὖν κικλήσκω¹ τῶνδε δαιμόνων ἔτι;

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

ὄρῳ τρίαῖναν τήνδε σημεῖον θεοῦ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλ' εὖ τ' ἔπεμψεν εὖ τε δεξάσθω χθονί.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

220 Ἑρμῆς ὅδ' ἄλλος τοῖσιν Ἑλλήνων νόμοις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἐλευθέροις νυν ἐσθλὰ κηρυκεύετω.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

πάντων δ' ἀνάκτων τῶνδε κοινοβωμίαν
σέβεσθ'. ἐν ἀγνῶ δ' ἐσμὸς ὡς πελειάδων
225 ἵξεσθε κίρκων² τῶν ὁμοπτέρων φόβῳ,
ἐχθρῶν ὁμαίμων καὶ μαινόντων γένος.
ὄρνιθος ὄρνις πῶς ἂν ἀγνεύοι³ φαγών;
πῶς δ' ἂν γαμῶν ἄκουσαν ἄκοντος πάρα
ἀγνὸς γένοιτ' ἄν; οὐδὲ μὴ ἔν' Αἰδοῦ θανὼν
φύγῃ ματαίων⁴ αἰτίας, πράξας τάδε.
230 κἀκεῖ δικάζει τὰπλακῆμαθ',⁵ ὡς λόγος,
Ζεὺς ἄλλος ἐν καμοῦσιν ὑστάτας δίκας.
σκοπεῖτε, καμείβεσθε τόνδε τὸν τρόπον,⁶
ὅπως ἂν ὑμῖν πρᾶγος εὖ νικᾷ τόδε.

¹ κικλίσκω: κικλήσκω Canter, κικλήσκω Wilam.

² ἵξεσθαι κρέκω M (ἵξεσθε κέρκω marg. m): Rob.

³ ἀγανεύοι mss.: ἀναγνεύοι Plutarch, *Mor.* 417 f, 607 e.

⁴ μάταιον: Schütz.

⁵ ταπλα ἐν μαβως: Vict.

⁶ τόπον: Stanley.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

Whom, further, of these divinities must I invoke ?

DANAÛS

I behold a trident here, token of its god.

CHORUS

Well did he speed us hither and well may he receive us in this land.

DANAÛS

Here, too, is Hermes, according to the Hellenic wont.

CHORUS

May he then herald good tidings to the free !

DANAÛS

And do reverence to the common altar of all these protecting powers ; and seat yourselves on holy ground like a flock of doves in dread of hawks of the same feathered tribe—kindred, yet foes, who would fain pollute their race. If bird prey on bird, how can it be pure ? And how can man be pure who would wrest from an unwilling sire an unwilling bride ? Nay, for such an act, not even in the realm of Hades, after death, shall he escape arraignment for outrage. There also, so men tell, among the dead another Zeus holds a last judgment upon misdeeds. Take heed and make reply as I enjoined, that victory may attend your cause.

[Enter the King of Argos with men-at-arms

AESCHYLUS

ΒΑΣΙΛΑΕΤΣ

235 ποδαπὸν ὄμιλον τόνδ' ἀνελληνόστολον¹
πέπλοισι βαρβάροισι καὶ πυκνώμασι
χλίοντα προσφωνούμεν; οὐ γὰρ Ἀργολὶς
ἔσθης γυναικῶν οὐδ' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος τόπων.
ὅπως δὲ χώραν οὐτε² κηρύκων ὕπο,
240 ἀπρόξενοί τε, νόσφιν ἡγητῶν, μολεῖν
ἔτλητ' ἀπρέστως,³ τοῦτο θαυμαστόν πέλει.
κλάδοι γε μὲν δὴ κατὰ νόμους ἀφικτόρων
κεῖνται παρ' ὑμῖν πρὸς θεοῖς ἀγωνίοις·
μόνον τόδ' Ἑλλὰς χθὼν συνοίσεται στόχῳ.
245 καὶ τᾶλλα πόλλ' ἔτ' εἰκάσαι⁴ δίκαιον ἦν,
εἰ μὴ παρόντι φθόγγος ἦν ὁ σημανῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

εἴρηκας ἀμφὶ κόσμον ἀψευδῇ λόγον.
ἐγὼ δὲ πρὸς⁵ σέ ποτερον ὡς ἔτην λέγω,
ἢ ῥήτορ' ἱεροράβδον,⁶ ἢ πόλεως ἀγόν;

ΒΑΣΙΛΑΕΤΣ

250 πρὸς ταῦτ' ἀμείβου καὶ λέγ' εὐθαρσῆς⁷ ἐμοί.
τοῦ γηγενοῦς γάρ εἰμ' ἐγὼ Παλαίχθονος
Ἰνις Πελασγός,⁸ τῇσδε γῆς ἀρχηγέτης.
ἐμοῦ δ' ἄνακτος εὐλόγως ἐπώννυμον
γένος Πελασγῶν τήνδε καρποῦται χθόνα.
καὶ πᾶσαν αἶαν, ἥς⁹ δι' ἀγνός¹⁰ ἔρχεται

¹ ἀνέλληνα στόλον: Bothe.

² οὐδὲ: Herm.

³ ἀπρέστως: Sophianus.

⁴ ἐπεικάσαι: Martin.

⁵ προσ. M, προσσέ m, πρὸς σέ GE.

⁶ ἡτηρον (changed to ἡ τηρόν?) ἡερου M (ἡ ἔρμου M marg.),
ἡ τηρόν ἡρου E: Schütz.

⁷ λέγει' εὐθαρσεῖς: Turn.

⁸ πελασγοῦ: Canter.

⁹ αἰδνης M, αἰδνης E: Turn.

¹⁰ διάλγος ME: δι' ἄλγος GP: Wordsworth.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

KING

Whence hails this band we address, attired in un-Hellenic garb and flaunting in barbaric robes and fabric of close woof? For your apparel is not that of the dames of Argos, nor yet of any part of Hellas. How ye gained courage thus fearlessly to come unto this land, unheralded and unfriended and without guides, this moves my wonder. And yet, 'tis true, I see that boughs such as suppliants bear are laid by your side before the gods assembled here—only as to this can Hellas make guess with confidence.¹ As for the rest, there is still much I should with reason have to conjecture, were there not a living voice to instruct me face to face.

CHORUS

Touching our attire, not falsely hast thou spoken. But, for my part, how am I to address thee? As commoner, as spokesman, bearer of the sacred wand,² or as ruler of the realm?

KING

On that score, make answer and speak with confidence unto *me*. For I am Pelasgus, offspring of Palaechthon, whom the earth brought forth, and lord of this land; and after me, their king, the race of the Pelasgi, who reap the fruits thereof, is fitly named. Of all the region through which the pure Strymon flows, on the side toward the setting sun,

¹ The original means "agree in forming a conjecture," *i.e.* be satisfied with a guess.

² Apparently a periphrasis for "herald"; but the Greek text is uncertain.

- 255 Στρυμών, τὸ πρὸς δύνοντος ἡλίου, κρατῶ.
 ὀρίζομαι δὲ τήν τε¹ Περραιβὼν χθόνα,
 Πίνδου τε τὰπέκεινα, Παιόνων πέλας,
 ὅρη τε Δωδωναῖα· συντέμνει δ' ὅρος
 ὑγρὰς θαλάσσης· τῶνδε τὰπὶ τάδε² κρατῶ.
 260 αὐτῆς δὲ χώρας Ἀπίας πέδον τόδε
 πάλαι κέκληται φωτὸς ἱατροῦ χάριν.
 Ἀπὶς γὰρ ἔλθων ἐκ πέρας Ναυπακτίας
 ἱατρόμαντις παῖς Ἀπόλλωνος χθόνα
 τήνδ' ἐκκαθαίρει κνωδάλων βροτοφθόρων,
 265 τὰ δὴ³ παλαιῶν αἱμάτων μιάσματος
 χρανθεῖς⁴ ἀνῆκε γαῖα μηνιταῖ⁵ ἄχῃ⁴
 δρακονθόμιλον⁵ δυσμενῇ ξυνοικίαν.
 τούτων ἅκη τομαῖα καὶ λυτήρια
 πράξας ἀμέμπτως Ἀπὶς⁶ Ἀργεῖα χθονὶ
 270 μνήμην ποτ' ἀντίμισθον⁷ ἡὔρετ'⁸ ἐν λιταῖς.
 ἔχουσα δ'⁹ ἤδη τὰπ' ἐμοῦ τεκμήρια
 γένος τ' ἂν ἐξεύχοιο καὶ λέγοις πρόσω.¹⁰
 μακρὰν γε μὲν δὴ ῥῆσιν¹¹ οὐ στέργει πόλις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 275 βραχὺς τορός θ' ὁ μῦθος· Ἀργεῖαι γένος
 ἐξευχόμεσθα, σπέρματ' εὐτέκνου βοός·
 καὶ ταῦτ' ἀληθῆ πάντα προσφύσω λόγῳ.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ἄπιστα¹² μυθεῖσθ', ὦ ξένοι, κλύειν ἐμοί,
 ὅπως τόδ' ὑμῖν ἐστὶν Ἀργεῖον γένος.

¹ τήνδε M, τήνδε E: Stanley.

² τ' ἀπειτα δέ: Canter.

³ δέ: Turn.

⁴ μηνιταῖ ἄκη: Herm. (μηνιταῖ') Martin (ἀχῃ).

⁵ δράκωνθ' ὁμιλῶν M, δράκωνθ' ὁμιλον m: Bothe..

⁶ μεμπτῶς ἀπεισ': Rob.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

I am the lord. There lie within the limits of my rule the land of the Perrhaebi, the parts beyond Pindus nigh unto the Paeonians, and the mountain ridge of Dodona; the boundary of the liquid sea restrains my realm. The region hitherward of these confines I hold in sway.

The ground whereon we stand is Apian land itself, and hath of old borne that name in honour of a leech. For Apis, seer and leech, the son of Apollo, came from Naupactus on the farther shore and purged well this land of monsters deadly to man, which Earth, defiled by the pollution of bloody deeds of yore, caused to spring up—plagues charged with wrath, a baleful colony of swarming serpents. Of these plagues Apis worked the cure by surgery and spells to the content of the Argive land, and for reward thereafter earned for himself remembrance in its litanies.

Now that ye have my tokens, declare your lineage and speak further—yet our people brooks not long discourse.

CHORUS

Our tale is brief and clear. Argives we claim to be by birth, seed of a cow blest in its offspring. And the truth of this I shall confirm in full.

KING

Stranger maidens, your tale passeth my belief—how this race of yours can be of Argos. Nay, for

⁷ πονταντινείσθον: Turn.

⁸ εἴρετ: Dindorf.

⁹ ἔχον δ' ἂν M (in marg. ἔχουσαν): Heimsoeth.

¹⁰ γένουτ' . . . λέγει προσως: Rob.

¹¹ δηρίσιν: Sphianus.

¹² ἀπειστα: Aldina.

280 Λιβυστικάῖς γὰρ μᾶλλον ἐμφερέστεραι
 γυναιξίν¹ ἔστε κοῦδαμῶς ἐγχωρίαῖς.
 καὶ Νείλος ἂν θρέψειε τοιοῦτον φυτόν,
 Κύπριος χαρακτήρ τ' ἐν γυναικείοις τύποις
 εἰκῶς πέπληκται τεκτόνων πρὸς ἀρσένων·
 285 τοίας² τ' ἀκούω³ νομάδας ἵπποβάμοσιν⁴
 εἶναι καμήλοις ἀστραβιζούσας, χθόνα
 παρ' Αἰθίοψιν ἀστυγειτονουμένας.
 καὶ τὰς ἀνάνδρους κρεοβόρους⁵ τ'⁶ Ἀμαζόνας,
 εἰ τοξοτευχεῖς ἦτε, κάρτ' ἂν ἤकाσα
 ὑμᾶς. διδαχθεῖς <δ'>⁷ ἂν τόδ' εἰδείην πλέον,
 290 ὅπως γένεθλον σπέρμα τ' Ἀργεῖον τὸ σόν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

κληδοῦχον Ἥρας φασὶ δωμάτων ποτὲ
 Ἰὼ γενέσθαι τῇδ' ἐν⁸ Ἀργείᾳ χθονί;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ἦν ὡς μάλιστα, καὶ φάτις πολλή κρατεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

295 μὴ καὶ λόγος τις Ζῆνα μειχθῆναι⁹ βροτῶ;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

κᾶκρυπτά¹⁰ γ' Ἥρας ταῦτα τὰμπαλάγματα.¹¹

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πῶς οὖν τελευτᾷ βασιλέων νείκη τάδε;

¹ γυναιξὶ δ': Turn.

² ἀκούων: Rob.

³ κρεοβρότους: Abresch.

⁴ ἰνδούς: Tucker.

⁵ ἵπποβάμοισιν: Turn.

⁶ δ': Porson.

⁷ <δ'> Abresch.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

ye are rather more like to women of Libya and in no wise to those native to our land. The Nile, too, might foster such a stock, and like unto yours is the Cyprian impress stamped upon female forms by male artificers. And of such aspect, I have heard, are nomad women, who, pillion-borne, ride on steed-like camels, women dwelling in a land neighbouring the Aethiopians. And had ye been armed with the bow, assuredly I had guessed ye to be the mateless, flesh-devouring Amazons. But inform me and I shall the better comprehend how it is that ye trace your race and lineage from Argos.

CHORUS

Is there a report that, in this land of Argos, Io in olden time was ward of Hera's fane ?

KING

Certes she was ; the tradition prevails far and wide.

CHORUS

And is there some story, too, that Zeus was joined in love with a mortal ?

KING

Aye, and this entanglement was not secret from Hera.

CHORUS

What then was the issue of this royal strife ?

⁸ τῇ ἰδεῖν : Sophianus.

¹⁰ καὶ κρυπτά : Herm.

⁹ μυχθῆναι : Wilam.

¹¹ παλλαγμάτων : Herm.

AESCHYLUS

ΒΑΣΙΛΑΕΤΣ

βοῦν τήν¹ γυναῖκ' ἔθηκεν Ἀργεία θεός.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

300 οὔκουν πελάζει Ζεὺς ἐπ' εὐκραίρῳ βοῖ;

ΒΑΣΙΛΑΕΤΣ

φασίν, πρέποντα² βουθόρῳ ταύρῳ δέμας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί δῆτα³ πρὸς ταῦτ' ἄλοχος⁴ ἰσχυρά Διός⁵;

ΒΑΣΙΛΑΕΤΣ

τὸν πάνθ' ὀρώντα φύλακ' ἐπέστησεν βοῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ποῖον πανόπτῃν οἰοβουκόλον λέγεις;

ΒΑΣΙΛΑΕΤΣ

305 Ἄργον, τὸν Ἑρμῆς παῖδα γῆς κατέκτανεν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί οὖν ἔτευξεν⁶ ἄλλο δυσπότμῳ βοῖ;

ΒΑΣΙΛΑΕΤΣ

βοηλάτῃν μύωπα κυνητήριον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οἷστρον καλοῦσιν αὐτὸν οἱ Νείλου πέλας.⁷

¹ βού.την Μ, βούτην other mss.: Canter.

² πρέποντας: Turn.

³ δῆ: Vict.

⁴ ταῦτα λόχοις: Rob.

⁵ χυρα διος: Pauw.

⁶ ἔτευξε δ': Turn.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

KING

The goddess of Argos transformed the woman into a cow.

CHORUS

And when a horned cow, did not Zeus approach her?

KING

So they say, likening his form unto a bull eager for his mate.

CHORUS

What then did Zeus' stubborn consort to requite this deed?

KING

She placed the all-seeing one to stand watch over the cow.

CHORUS

What manner of all-seeing herdsman with a single charge hast thou in mind?

KING

Argus, a son of Earth, whom Hermes slew.

CHORUS

What else did she contrive against the hapless cow?

KING

A sting, torment of cattle, that urged her ever on.

CHORUS

Brize they call it, those who dwell hard by the Nile.

⁷ πέδας M, παίδες in marg.: Turn.

AESCHYLUS

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

τοιγάρ νυν ἐκ γῆς¹ ἤλασεν μακρῶ δρόμῳ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

310 καὶ ταῦτ' ἔλεξας πάντα συγκόλλως ἐμοί.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

καὶ μὴν Κάνωβον καπὶ Μέμφιν ἔκετο.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καὶ Ζεὺς γ' ἐφάπτωρ χειρὶ φυτεύει² γόνον.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

τίς³ οὖν ὁ Δίος πόρτις εὐχεται βοός;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

315 Ἐπαφος ἀληθῶς ῥυσίων ἐπώνυμος.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

Λιβύη, μέγιστον γῆς <πέδον>⁴ καρπουμένη.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

τίν' οὖν ἔτ' ἄλλον τῆσδε βλαστημὸν λέγεις;

¹ τῆς: Canter.

³ τι: Stanley.

² φυτεύει: Scaliger.

⁴ <πέδον> Burges.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

KING

Well then, it drave her by a long course from out the land.

CHORUS

This, thy account, likewise agrees with mine in all respects.

KING

Further, she came to Canobus and to Memphis.

CHORUS

Aye, and Zeus engendered issue by the touching of his hand.

KING

Who is it then that claims to be the cow's Zeus-begotten calf?

CHORUS

Epaphus, and truly named from laying on of hands.

KING

[And who was begotten of Epaphus?]

CHORUS

Libya, who reaps the fruit of the largest portion of the earth.

KING

[What offspring, then, had Libya?]

CHORUS

[Agenor was the first child born of her.]

KING

What offshoot of hers hast thou further still to tell?

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

Βῆλον δίπαιδα, πατέρα τοῦδ' ἐμοῦ πατρός.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

320 τὸ πάνσοφον νῦν ὄνομα τοῦτό μοι φράσον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

Δαναός, ἀδελφός δ'¹ ἐστὶ πεντηκοντάπαις.²

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

καὶ τοῦδ' ἀνοίγε³ τοῦνομ' ἀφθόνῳ λόγῳ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

Αἴγυπτος. εἰδὼς δ'⁴ ἄμὸν ἀρχαῖον γένος
πράσσοις ἂν ὥς Ἀργεῖον ἀνστήσης⁵ στόλον.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

325 δοκεῖτε <δή>⁶ μοι τῇσδε κοινωνεῖν χθονὸς
τάρχαῖον. ἀλλὰ πῶς πατρῷα δώματα
λιπεῖν ἔτλητε; τίς κατέσκηψεν τύχη;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἄναξ Πελασγῶν, αἰόλ' ἀνθρώπων κακά.
πόνου δ' ἴδοις⁷ ἂν οὐδαμοῦ ταῦτόν πτερόν.⁷
330 ἐπεὶ τίς ἡὔχει τήνδ' ἀνέλπιστον φυγὴν

¹ δ' ἀδελφός: Scaliger.

² πεντηκοστόπαις ME, πεντηκοντόπαις P: Heath.

³ τοῦ δαναοῖγε: Porson.

⁴ δ' εἰδὼς δ' M: Turn.

⁵ ἀνστήσας ME, ἀντήσας m marg.: Vict.

⁶ <δή> Turn.

⁷ δειδοῖς . . . πότερον: Turn.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

Belus, who had two sons and was father of my father here.

KING

Declare unto me now his name with wisdom fraught.¹

CHORUS

Danaüs ; and he hath a brother with fifty sons.

KING

Grudge not thy speech, but reveal unto me his name as well.

CHORUS

Aegyptus ; and now that thou knowest mine ancient lineage, I pray thee act so as to succour² a band that is Argive by descent.

KING

Of a truth, methinks, ye have from of old some part in this our land. But how did ye bring yourselves to leave the home of your fathers ? What stroke of fortune befel ?

CHORUS

Lord of the Pelasgians, of varying hue are the ills of mankind, and nowhere canst thou find trouble of the self-same plume. For who had dreamed that a kindred race, sprung thence of old, would thus in

¹ The epithet, properly applicable to the venerable Danaüs, is transferred to his name, because, to the Greek, name often connoted personality. So "the dreaded name of Demogorgon."

² Literally "raise" from sanctuary.

κέλσειν¹ ἐς Ἄργος κῆδος ἐγγενὲς τὸ πρῖν,
ἔχθει² μεταποιοῦσαν εὐναίων γάμων;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

τί φῆς ἱκνεῖσθαι τῶνδ' ἀγωνίων θεῶν,
λευκοστεφεῖς ἔχουσα νεοδρέπτους κλάδους;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

335 ὥς μὴ γένωμαι δμῶις Αἰγύπτου γένει.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

πότερα κατ' ἔχθραν, ἢ τὸ μὴ θέμις λέγεις;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τίς δ' ἂν φίλους ὠνοῖτο³ τοὺς κεκτημένους;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

σθένος μὲν οὕτως μείζον αὖξεται βροτοῖς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καὶ δυστυχούντων γ'⁴ εὐμαρῆς ἀπαλλαγῇ.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

340 πῶς οὖν πρὸς ὑμᾶς εὐσεβῆς ἐγὼ πέλω;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

αἰτοῦσι μὴ ῥκδοῦς⁵ παισὶν Αἰγύπτου πάλιν.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

βαρέα σύ γ' εἶπας, πόλεμον ἄρασθαι⁶ νέον.

¹ κέλσειεν: Rob.

² ἔχθει: Turn.

³ ὠνοῖτο: Rob.

⁴ τ': Turn.

⁵ ῥκδῶς: Schütz.

⁶ αἴρασθαι ME, αἶρεσθαι G: Rob.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

unexpected flight find haven at Argos, fleeing in terror through loathing of the marriage-bed ?

KING

Wherefore, sayest thou, are ye suppliants of these gods congregated here, holding in your hands those white-wreathed, fresh-plucked boughs ?

CHORUS

Not to be made bondswomen to Aegyptus' race.

KING

By reason of hatred ? Or dost thou speak of unlawfulness ?

CHORUS

Who would purchase their lords from among their kin ?

KING

'Tis thus that families have their power enhanced.

CHORUS

Aye, 'tis easy then, if things go ill, to put away a wife.

KING

How then am I to deal with you in accordance with my righteous duty ?

CHORUS

By not surrendering us at the demand of Aegyptus' sons.

KING

A serious request in sooth—to take upon myself a dangerous war.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλ' ἡ δίκη γε ξυμμάχων ὑπερστατεῖ.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

εἴπερ γ' ἀπ' ἀρχῆς πραγμάτων κοινωνὸς¹ ἦν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

345 αἰδοῦ σὺ πρύμναν πόλεος² ὧδ' ἐστεμμένην.²

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

πέφρικα λεύσσω³ τάσδ' ἔδρας⁴ κατασκίους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

βαρὺς γε μέντοι Ζηνὸς ἱκεσίου κότος.

Παλαίχθονος τέκος, κλυθί μου [στρ. α.
350 πρόφρονι καρδίᾳ, Πελασγῶν ἀναξ.
ἴδε με τὰν⁵ ἱκέτιν φυγάδα περιδρομον,
λυκοδίωκτον⁶ ὡς δάμαλιν ἀμ πέτραις
ἡλιβάτοις, ἔν⁷ ἀλκᾷ πίσυνος μέμν-
κε φράζουσα βοτῆρι μόχθους.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

355 ὁρῶ κλάδοισι νεοδρόποις κατάσκιον
νεύονθ'⁸ ὅμιλον τόνδ'⁹ ἀγωνίων θεῶν.

¹ κοινός: Sophianus.

³ πέφρικα λεύσσω: Rob.

⁵ μέγαν: Sophianus.

⁷ ἡλιβάτοισιν: Valckenaer.

² πόλεως. ἐστεμμένη: Turn.

⁴ τὰς δέδρας: Vict.

⁶ λευκόδικτον: Herm.

⁸ νέονθ': Bamberger.

⁹ τῶνδ': Herm.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

Aye, but Justice protects her champions.

KING

True, if she had a part therein from the first.

CHORUS

Do thou show reverence for the helm of the State
thus engarlanded.¹

KING

I shrink as I gaze upon these shrines shaded o'er
with leafage.

CHORUS

Aye, yet heavy in truth is the wrath of Zeus, god
of the suppliant.

Son of Palaechthon, lord of the Pelasgians, hearken
unto me with a heart benign. Behold me, thy sup-
pliant, a fugitive, coursing to and fro like a heifer
chased by wolves upon precipitous crags, where,
confident in his succour, she lows to tell the herds-
man of her distress.

KING

I behold yon company of assembled gods marking
their assent beneath the shade of fresh-plucked

¹ The gods, whose statues have been wreathed with the
Suppliants' branches, are regarded as the pilots who direct
the ship of State. Possibly there is also a reference to the
custom of crowning a vessel's stern with flowers.

εἴη δ' ἄνατον πρᾶγμα τοῦτ' ἀστοξένων.
μηδ' ἐξ ἀέλπτων κάπρομηθήτων πόλει
νεῖκος γένηται· τῶν γὰρ οὐ δεῖται πόλις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 360 ἴδοιτο δῆτ' ἄνατον¹ φυγὰν [ἀντ. α.
ἱκεσία Θέμις Διὸς κλαρίου.
σὺ δὲ παρ' ὀψιγόνου μάθε γεραίοφρων·²
ποτιτρόπαιον αἰδόμενος ῥοδνπερ
ἱεροδόκα† . . .
θεῶν λήματ' ἀπ' ἀνδρὸς ἀγνοῦ.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

- 365 οὔτοι κάθησθε δωμάτων ἐφέστιοι
ἐμῶν. τὸ κοινὸν δ' εἰ μιáινεται πόλις,
ξυνῇ μελέσθω λαὸς ἐκπονεῖν³ ἄκη.
ἐγὼ δ' ἂν οὐ κραίνοιμ' ὑπόσχεσιν πάρος,⁴
ἀστοῖς δὲ πᾶσι τῶνδε⁵ κοινώσας πέρι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 370 σύ τοι πόλις, σὺ δὲ τὸ δάμιον·⁶ [στρ. β.
πρύτανις ἄκριτος ὦν,
κρατύνεις βωμόν, ἐστὶαν χθονός,
μονοψήφοισι νεύμασιν σέθεν,
μονοσκήπτριοσι δ' ἐν θρόνοις⁷ χρέος
375 πᾶν ἐπικραίνεις· ἄγος⁸ φυλάσσου.

¹ δῆτα τὰν ἄνατον : Pauw.

² γεραφρόνων : Burges.

³ ἐκπνοεῖν MGE, εἰσπνοεῖν P : Turn.

⁴ παρακρος ME : Sophianus.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

boughs. Nevertheless may this cause of claimants to the friendship of our city bring no mischief in its train! And let no feud come upon the State from causes unforeseen and unforested; for of such trouble the State standeth in no need.

CHORUS

Yea, indeed, may Justice, daughter of Zeus the Apportioner, Justice who protecteth the suppliant, look upon our flight that it bring no mischief in its train. But do thou, aged in experience as thou art, learn from one of younger birth. If thou showest mercy to a suppliant . . . from a man of holiness.

KING

'Tis not, in sooth, my private house at whose hearth ye sit. If the State is stained by pollution in its commonalty, in common let the people strive to work out the cure. For myself, I will pledge no promise before I have communicated with all the citizens touching these events.

CHORUS

'Tis thou that art the State, 'tis thou that art the people. Thou, a lord subject to no judge, dost rule the altar, thy country's hearth, by thy will's sole ordinance and, enthroned in sole sovereignty, thou dost determine every issue. Beware pollution!

⁵ ἀστῶν . . . τοῖσδε: Scaliger.

⁶ δῆμον: Weil.

⁷ χρονοῖσι: Sophianus (θρόνοισι), Pauw.

⁸ ἄλγος: Rob.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ἄγος μὲν εἶη τοῖς ἐμοῖς παλιγκότοις,
 ὑμῖν δ' ἀρήγειν οὐκ ἔχω βλάβης ἄτερ·
 οὐδ' αὖ τόδ' εὐφρον, τάσδ' ἀτιμάσαι λιτάς.
 380 ἀμυχανῶ δὲ καὶ φόβος μ' ἔχει φρένας
 δρᾶσαι τε μὴ δρᾶσαι¹ τε καὶ τύχην ἐλεῖν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τὸν ὑπόθεν σκοπὸν ἐπισκόπει,² [ἀντ. β.
 φύλακα πολυπόνων
 βροτῶν, οἳ τοῖς πέλας προσήμενοι
 δίκας οὐ τυγχάνουσιν ἐννόμου.
 385 μένει τοι Ζηγνὸς ἱκταίου κότος
 δυσπαρὰθέλκτους³ παθόντος οἴκοις.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

εἴ τοι κρατοῦσι παῖδες Αἰγύπτου σέθεν
 νόμῳ πόλεως, φάσκοντες ἐγγύτατα γένους
 εἶναι, τίς ἂν τοῖσδ'⁴ ἀντιωθῆναι θέλοι;
 390 δεῖ τοί σε φεύγειν κατὰ νόμους τοὺς οἴκοθεν,
 ὥς οὐκ ἔχουσιν κῦρος οὐδὲν ἀμφὶ σοῦ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μή τί ποτ' οὖν γενοίμαν ὑποχείριος⁵ [στρ. γ.
 κράτεσιν ἀρσένων. ὑπαστρον δέ τοι
 μῆχαρ ὀρίζομαι γάμου δύσφρονος
 395 φυγάν.⁶ ξύμμαχον δ' ἐλόμενος δίκαν
 κρῖνε σέβας τὸ πρὸς θεῶν.

¹ μὴ δράσητε MGP, μὴ δρᾶσαι τὲ E.

² ἐπισκοπεῖ MGE: Rob.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

KING

Pollution rest upon mine enemies! But without harm I know not how to succour you. And yet again, it is not well advised to slight these supplications. I am perplexed, and fear possesses my soul whether to act or not to act and take what fortune sends.

CHORUS

Look unto him that looketh down from on high, unto him, the guardian of mortals sore-distressed, who appeal unto their neighbours, yet obtain not the justice that is their due right. Verily the wrath of Zeus, the suppliant's god, awaiteth such as will not be softened by a sufferer's complaints.

KING

If the sons of Aegyptus have authority over thee by thy country's law on the plea that they are nearest of kin, who would fain contest their claim? Thou must plead in accordance with the laws of the land thou hast quitted, that they have no authority over thee.

CHORUS

Never, oh never, may I fall subject to the power and authority of these men. To escape this marriage that offends my soul I am determined to flee, piloting my course by the stars. Take Justice as thy ally, and render judgment for the cause approved righteous by the gods.

³ ὦ δυσπαρθέγκτοις ME (δυσπαρθενήτοις m marg.): Burges.

⁴ τίςδ' M: Vict. ⁵ ὑποχέριος: Rob. ⁶ φνγαί: Heath.

AESCHYLUS

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

οὐκ εὐκριτον τὸ κρῖμα· μή μ' αἵρου κριτήν.
 εἶπον δέ καί πρην, οὐκ ἄνευ δήμου τάδε
 πράξαιμ' ἄν, οὐδέ περ κρατῶν, μή καί¹ ποτε
 400 εἴπη λεώς, εἴ πού τι μὴ τοῖον τύχοι,²
 “ἐπήλυδας³ τιμῶν ἀπώλεσας πόλιν.”

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀμφοτέρους ὁμαίμων τάδ' ἐπισκοπεῖ [ἀντ. γ.
 Ζεὺς ἑτερορρεπής, νέμων εἰκότως
 ἄδικα μὲν κακοῖς, ὅσια δ' ἐννόμοις.
 405 τί τῶνδ' ἐξ ἴσου ῥεπομένων μεταλ-
 γεῖς τὸ δίκαιον ἔρξας⁴;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

δεῖ τοι βαθείας φροντίδος σωτηρίου,
 δίκην κολυμβητήρος, ἐς βυθὸν μολεῖν
 δεδορκὸς ὄμμα, μηδ' ἄγαν ὠνωμένον,⁵
 410 ὅπως ἄνατα ταῦτα πρῶτα μὲν πόλει,
 αὐτοῖσί θ' ἡμῖν ἐκτελευτήσῃ καλῶς,
 καὶ μήτε δῆρις ῥυσίων ἐφάψεται
 μήτ' ἐν θεῶν ἑδραῖσιν ὧδ' ἱδρυμένας
 ἐκδόντες ὑμᾶς τὸν πανώλεθρον θεὸν
 415 βαρὺν ξύνουικον θησόμεσθ'⁶ ἀλάστορα,
 ὅς⁷ οὐδ' ἐν⁸ Αἰδοῦ τὸν θανόντ' ἐλευθεροῖ.
 μὴν οὐ δοκεῖ δεῖν⁹ φροντίδος σωτηρίου;

¹ καὶ μή: Turn.

³ ἐπήλυδας: Rob.

⁵ ὠνωμένων: Salvinius.

² τυχθῇ: Porson.

⁴ ἔρξαι: Headlam.

⁶ θησόμεθ': Vict.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

KING

No easy matter this for judgment—make me not judge thereof. I have declared already that, ruler though I be, I will not do this thing save with the consent of my people, lest hereafter—if aught untoward should in any wise befall—the folk should say, “Thou didst honour aliens and hast wrought the ruin of thine own land.”

CHORUS

Both sides alike in this dispute doth Zeus, kindred to both in blood, survey with balance poised impartially, apportioning, as is due, unto the wicked their wrongdoing and to the godly their works of righteousness. When these things are thus equally poised, what compunction hast thou if thou workest me justice?

KING

Surely there is need of deep and salutary counsel; need for a keen-sighted eye, not o’ermuch confused, to descend, like some diver, into the depths, that to the State above all things this matter may work no mischief, and may come to a fair issue for ourselves; that strife may not seize on you for prize, nor yet that we surrender you from these seats of sanctuary, and bring upon ourselves the dire, abiding vengeance of the all-destroying god, who, even in the realm of Death, doth not set his victim free. Surely ye cannot think there is no need of salutary counsel?

⁷ ὡς M: Vict.

⁸ οὐδὲν M, οὐδ’ ἐν G.

⁹ δοκεῖν δεῖ: Turn.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- φρόντισον καὶ γενοῦ
 πανδίκως εὐσεβῆς
 420 πρόξενος· τὰν φυγάδα μὴ προδῶς,¹
 τὰν ἑκαθεν ἐκβολαῖς
 δυσθέοις ὀρμέναν.²
- μηδ' ἴδης μ' ἐξ ἐδρᾶν
 πολυθέων ῥυσια-
 425 σθείσαν, ὧ πᾶν κράτος ἔχων χθονός.
 γνῶθι δ' ὕβριν ἀνέρων
 καὶ φύλαξαι κότον.
- μή τι τλῆς τὰν ἱκέτων³ εἰσιδεῖν
 ἀπὸ βρετέων βία
 430 δίκας ἀγομέναν
 ἱππηδὸν ἀμπύκων,
 πολυμίττων⁴ πέπλων τ' ἐπιλαβὰς ἐμῶν.
- ἴσθι γάρ· παισὶ τάδε καὶ δόμοις, [στρ. δ.
 435 ὁπότερ' ἂν κτίσης,
 μένει ἄρ' ἐκτίνευ⁵
 ὁμοῖται⁶ θέμιν.
 τάδε φράσαι δίκαια Διόθεν κράτη. [ἀντ. ε.]

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

- καὶ δὴ πέφρασμαι· δεῦρο δ' ἐξοκέλλεται·
 ἢ τοῖσιν ἢ τοῖς πόλεμον αἵρεσθαι μέγαν
 440 πᾶς' ἔστ' ἀνάγκη, καὶ γεγόμεφται σκάφος
 στρέβλαισι ναυτικάσιν ὥς προσηγμένον.
 ἄνευ δὲ λύπης οὐδαμοῦ καταστροφή.

¹ προδῶς : Turn.

² ὀρμέναν (ω above second ο) M : Pauw.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

Yea, take counsel, and, as is thy sacred duty, prove thyself our righteous champion. Betray not the fugitive who hath been impiously cast out and driven from afar.

And see me not ravished from this sanctuary of many gods, oh thou that holdest sovereign power over the land ; but recognize the men's wantonness, and beware the wrath of Heaven.

Endure not to behold thy suppliant dragged, spite of justice, from the images of the gods, like a horse by the frontlet, and to behold rude hands laid upon my fine-woven robes.

For be thou assured of this—whichsoever end thou shalt bring to pass, it remaineth unto thy children and thy house to make full payment by strict recompense.¹ Consider these righteous ordinances of God.

KING

Aye, I have considered them ; and I am driven to this cruel pass—I must take upon myself a mighty war against one side or the other. There is no escape—'tis as firmly fixed as a ship's hull drawn tight by windlasses. There is no issue without grievous hurt.

¹ The condensed phrase "pay equal (measure of) justice," though emphasizing the notion of just retribution for evil, includes that of just reward for good—the act comes back upon the doer (*δράσαντι παθεῖν*).

³ τ' ἀάσταν M (τλαίης τὰν m marg.): Pauw.

⁴ πολυμήτων : Turn.

⁵ δρεικτεῖν M : Abresch.

⁶ ὁμοίαν : Klausen.

καὶ χρημάτων¹ μὲν ἐκ δόμων πορθουμένων,
 ἥατ' γε μείζω καὶ μέγ' ἐμπλήσας γόμου†
 445 γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλα Κτησίου Διὸς χάριν·
 καὶ γλώσσα τοξεύσασα μὴ τὰ καίρια,
 γένοιτο μύθου μῦθος ἂν θελκτήριος²
 [ἀλγεινὰ θυμοῦ κάρτα κινητήρια].³
 ὅπως δ' ὅμαιμον αἶμα μὴ γενήσεται,
 450 δεῖ κάρτα θύειν καὶ πεσεῖν χρηστήρια
 θεοῖσι πολλοῖς πολλά, πημονῆς ἄκη.
 ἥ κάρτα νείκους τοῦδ' ἔσω⁴ παροίχομαι·
 θέλω δ' αἰδρις μᾶλλον ἢ σοφὸς κακῶν
 εἶναι· γένοιτο δ' εὖ παρὰ γνώμην ἐμήν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

455 πολλῶν ἄκουσον τέρματ' αἰδοίων λόγων.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ἤκουσα, καὶ λέγοις ἄν· οὐ με φεύξεται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἔχω στρόφους⁵ ζώνας τε, συλλαβὰς πέπλων.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

τάχ' ἂν γυναιξί⁶ ταῦτα συμπρεπῇ πέλοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἐκ τῶνδε τοῖνυν, ἴσθι, μηχανὴ καλή⁷—

¹ χρήμασι M, χρημάτων in marg.
² θελκτήριος: Turn.

³ [] Geel.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

Now when goods are plundered from a homestead, other goods may come by grace of Zeus, guardian of household wealth ; so a tongue that has shot arrows beside the mark—one speech may be the healer of another. But to avoid shedding of kindred blood, surely there is need of sacrifice and that many a victim fall to many a god as a deliverance from impending harm. Of a truth, 'tis to my undoing that I am come into this quarrel ; and yet I am fain to be unskilled rather than practised in the lore of foretelling ill. But may my judgment belie itself and all go well !

CHORUS

Hear now the end of my manifold appeals for compassion.

KING

I hear ; say on. It shall not escape me.

CHORUS

I have breast-bands and girdles wherewith to gather up my robes.

KING

Such things are proper, no doubt, to womenfolk.

CHORUS

In these then, be sure, I have a rare contrivance—

⁴ ἐγὼ: Tucker.

⁵ στρόβους: Scaliger.

⁶ τύχαν γυναικῶν: τάχ' ἂν Markscheffel, γυναιξίν Wecklein, γυναιξί Tucker.

⁷ καλεῖ: Turn.

AESCHYLUS

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

460 λέξον τίν' αὐδὴν τήνδε γηρυθεῖς¹ ἔσει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

εἰ μή τι πιστὸν τῷδ' ὑποστήσεις² στόλῳ—

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

τί σοι περαίνει μηχανῇ συζωμάτων;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

νέοις πίναξι βρέττα κοσμήσαι τάδε.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

αἰνιγματῶδες τοῦπος· ἀλλ' ἀπλῶς³ φράσον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

465 ἐκ τῶνδ' ὅπως τάχιστ' ἀπάγξασθαι θεῶν.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ἤκουσα μαστικτῆρα⁴ καρδίας λόγον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ξυνήκας· ὠμμάτωσα γὰρ σαφέστερον.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

καὶ⁵ πολλαχῇ γε δυσπάλαιστα πράγματα,
κακῶν δὲ πλήθος ποταμὸς ὡς ἐπέρχεται·

¹ γηρυθεῖς: Turn.

² ὑποστήσει: Wellauer.

³ ἀλλὰ πῶς: Abresch.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

KING

Tell me what speech thou hast in mind to utter.

CHORUS

If thou wilt not engage thyself to give some pledge unto our company—

KING

What is the contrivance of the sashes to effect for thee ?

CHORUS

To adorn these images with tablets of strange sort.

KING

Thy words are riddling ; come, explain in simple speech.

CHORUS

To hang ourselves forthwith from the statues of yon gods.

KING

I mark a threat that is a lash unto my heart.

CHORUS

Thou hast grasped my intent, for I have cleared thy vision.

KING

Aye ; and on many sides are difficulties hard to wrestle with ; for, like a flood, a multitude of ills

⁴ μακιστήρα : Auratus.

⁵ καὶ μὴν : Turn.

- 470 ἄτης δ' ἄβυσσον πέλαγος οὐ μάλ' εὖπορον
τόδ' ἐσβέβηκα,¹ κοῦδαμοῦ λιμὴν κακῶν.
εἰ μὲν γὰρ ὑμῖν μὴ τόδ' ἐκπράξω χρέος,
μίαςμ' ἔλεξας οὐχ ὑπερτοξεύσιμον·
εἰ δ' αὖθ' ὁμαίμοις² παισὶν Αἰγύπτου σέθεν
475 σταθεὶς πρὸ τειχέων διὰ μάχης ἤξω τέλους,
πῶς οὐχὶ τὰνάλωμα γίγνεται πικρόν,
ἄνδρας γυναικῶν οὐνεχ' αἰμάξαι πέδον;
ὅμως δ' ἀνάγκη Ζηνὸς αἰδεῖσθαι κότον
ἰκτῆρος· ὕψιστος γὰρ ἐν βροτοῖς φόβος.
480 σὺ μὲν, πάτερ γεραῖέ τῶνδε παρθένων,
κλάδους τε τούτους αἰψ' ἐν ἀγκάλαις λαβὼν
βωμοὺς ἐπ' ἄλλους δαιμόνων ἐγχωρίων
θεός, ὥς ἴδωσι τῆσδ' ἀφίξεως τέκμαρ
πάντες πολῖται, μηδ' ἀπορριφθῆ λόγος
485 ἐμοῦ· κατ' ἀρχῆς γὰρ φιλαίτιος λεώς.
καὶ γὰρ τάχ' ἂν τις οἰκτίσας ἰδὼν³ τάδε
ὔβριν μὲν ἐχθήρειεν ἄρσενος στόλου,
ὑμῖν δ' ἂν εἴη δῆμος εὐμενέστερος·
τοῖς ἥσσοσιν γὰρ πᾶς τις εὐνοίας φέρει.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

- 490 πολλῶν τὰδ' ἡμῖν ἐστὶν ἡξιωμένα,
αἰδοῖον εὐρεθέντα⁴ πρόξενον⁵ λαβεῖν.
ὁπάονας δὲ φράστοράς τ' ἐγχωρίων
ξύμπεμψον, ὥς ἂν τῶν πολισσούχων θεῶν
βωμοὺς προνάους καὶ ἱπολισσούχων⁶ ἔδρας
495 εὐρωμεν, ἀσφάλεια δ' ἧ δι' ἄσπεως

¹ ἐσέβηκα : Spanheim. ² ὁμαίμοις : Turn.

³ οἰκτος εἰσιδὼν : Herm.

⁴ εὐρ' ἔοντα M, εὐ ρέοντα m : Porson.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

bursts on me. It is a sea of ruin, fathomless and impassable, that I have launched upon, and nowhere is there a haven from distress. For should I not effect a quittance of the debt due to you, the pollution thou namest is beyond all range of speech; yet if I take my stand before the walls and try the issue of battle with the sons of Aegyptus, your kinsmen, how will the cost not mount to a cruel price—men's blood to stain the ground for women's sake?

And yet the wrath of Zeus who guardeth the suppliant compels my reverence; for supreme among mortals is the fear of him. Do thou, aged father of these maidens, take these boughs straightway in thine arms and place them upon other altars of the country's gods, that all the burghers may see the token that ye have come in supplication. And let no random word be let fall against me; for the people is fain to complain against authority. It may well chance that some, stirred to compassion at the sight, will hate the wantonness of the troop of males, and that the people will be more friendly of intent towards you; for to the weaker cause all men are well disposed.

DANAÛS

We deem it worth much to have gained a champion who is compassionate. Yet send with me escorts and guides of the country's folk that we may find where the gods who protect your city have their altars at the temple fronts and their . . . seats, and that safety may attend our progress through

⁵ πρόσθεν: Canter.

⁶ πολιτισσούχους M¹, -ούχων M²PE.

⁷ ἀσφαλείας δὲ δι': Turn.

AESCHYLUS

στείχουσι· μορφῆς δ' οὐχ ὁμόστολος φύσις.
 Νείλος γὰρ οὐχ ὅμοιον Ἰνάχῳ γένος
 τρέφει. φύλαξαι μὴ θράσος τέκη φόβον·
 καὶ δὴ φίλον τις ἔκταν' ἀγνοίας ὕπο.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

500 στείχοιτ' ἄν, ἄνδρες· εὖ γὰρ ὁ ξένος λέγει.
 ἡγείσθε βωμοὺς ἀστικούς,¹ θεῶν ἑδρας·
 καὶ ξυμβολοῦσιν² οὐ πολυστομεῖν χρεῶν
 ναύτην ἄγοντας τόνδ' ἐφέστιον θεῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τούτῳ μὲν εἶπας, καὶ τεταγμένος κίοι·
 505 ἐγὼ δὲ πῶς δρῶ; ποῦ θράσος νέμεις ἐμοί;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

κλάδους μὲν αὐτοῦ λείπε, σημείον πόνου.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καὶ δὴ σφε λείπω χειρὶ καὶ λόγοις σέθεν.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

λευρὸν κατ' ἄλλος νῦν ἐπιστρέφου³ τόδε.

¹ ἀστίκτους: Turn.

² ξυμβόλοισιν: Valckenaer.

³ ἐπιστρέφω: Rob.

¹ With the mound, crowded with the images of the gods and their common altar (l. 222), the maidens here contrast

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

the town. The nature of our aspect is unlike yours—for Nile and Inachus rear a different race. Beware lest present over-confidence beget dismay; ere now have men through ignorance slain those they loved.

KING

Forward, my men; for the stranger speaketh fairly. Be ye his guides to the altars of the city and to the sanctuaries of the gods. With such as meet you on the way ye must not have lengthy converse while ye are bringing this seafarer to be a suppliant at the hearths of the gods.

[Exit Danaüs with attendants]

CHORUS

To him thou hast spoken, and let him go with the instructions thou hast given. But what of me? What am I to do? Where dost thou assign security unto me?

KING

Your boughs leave where ye are, tokens of your distress.

CHORUS

Behold, I leave them at thy signal and behest.

KING

Betake thee now along this level space about the sanctuary.¹

a level space, adjacent to the sanctuary yet accessible to all. Some *ἄλση* were open to the public (*βέβηλα*), while others formed part of the sacred precinct proper. The poets, according to Strabo ix. 412, used the word *ἄλσος* to denote all sanctuaries, even if they were not planted with trees.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καὶ πῶς βέβηλον ἄλσος ἂν ῥύοιτό με;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

510 οὗτοι πτερωτῶν ἀρπαγαῖς¹ <σ>² ἐκδώσομεν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλ' εἰ δρακόντων δυσφρόνων ἐχθίοσιν;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

εὐφημον εἴη τοῦπος εὐφημουμένη.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οὗτοι τι θαῦμα δυσφορεῖν φόβῳ φρενός.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

αἰί γ'³ ἀναρκτόν⁴ ἐστι δεῖμ' ἐξαίσιον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

515 σὺ καὶ λέγων εὐφραине καὶ πράσσω φρένα.⁵

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

520 ἀλλ' οὔτι δαρὸν χρόνον ἐρημώσει πατήρ.
ἐγὼ δὲ λαοὺς συγκαλῶν ἐγχωρίους
στείχω,⁶ τὸ κοινὸν ὡς ἂν εὐμενὲς τιθῶ.
καὶ σὸν διδάξω πατέρα ποῖα⁷ χρή λέγειν.
πρὸς ταῦτα μίμνε καὶ θεοὺς ἐγχωρίους
λιταῖς παραιτοῦ τῶν σ' ἔρως ἔχει τυχεῖν.

¹ ἄρπαγες: Turn.

³ δ': Dindorf.

² <σ> Porson.

⁴ ἀνάκτων: Headlam.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

But it is not holy ground. How can it keep me safe ?

KING

Nay, be assured, we will not give thee up to winged creatures' ravishment.

CHORUS

But what if to those whom we dread worse than fell serpents ?

KING

Fair words, I prithee, since thyself art spoken fair.

CHORUS

Nay, no wonder that I am fretful through alarm of mind.

KING

Excess of fear is ever uncontrolled.

CHORUS

Do thou cheer my heart by deeds as well as words.

KING

Nay, 'tis not for long thy father will leave thee here alone. I myself go now to call together the folk of the land that I may dispose the general body to friendliness ; and I will instruct thy father what manner of speech he must employ. Wherefore bide here and beseech with prayers the gods of the

⁵ φρενι : Heath.

⁶ πιετω M, επιετω E : Weil.

⁷ τοια MPE, τοια superscribed P.

ἐγὼ δὲ ταῦτα πορσυνῶν¹ ἐλεύσομαι·
πειθὼ δ' ἔποιτο καὶ τύχη πρακτήριος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 525 ἀναξ ἀνάκτων, μακάρων [στρ. α.
μακάρτατε καὶ τελῶν
τελειότατον κράτος, ὄλβιε Ζεῦ,
πιθοῦ² τε καὶ γένει σῶ³
ἄλευσον ἀνδρῶν ὕβριν εἰς στυγῆσας·
530 λίμνα δ' ἔμβαλε πορφυροειδεῖ
τὰν μελανόζυγ' ἄταν.
- τὸ πρὸς γυναικῶν <δ>⁴ ἐπιδῶν [ἀντ. α.
παλαίφατον ἀμέτερον
γένος φιλίας προγόνου γυναικὸς
νέωσον εὐφρον' αἶνον,
535 γενοῦ πολυμνάστωρ, ἔφαπτορ⁵ Ἰοῦς·
Διὰ⁶ τοι γένος εὐχόμεθ' εἶναι
γὰς ἀπὸ τᾶσδ' ἄποικοι.⁷
- παλαιὸν δ' εἰς ἔχνος μετέσταν [στρ. β.
ματέρος ἀνθονόμους ἐπωπᾶς,
540 λειμῶνα βούχilon, ἔνθεν Ἴω
οἷστρω ἐρεθομένα
φεύγει ἀμαρτίνοος,
πολλὰ βροτῶν διαμειβομένα
φύλα, διχῇ δ' ἀντίπορον
545 γαῖαν ἐν αἷσα διατέμ-
νουσα πόρον κυματίαν ὀρίζει·
- ιάπτει δ' Ἀσίδος⁸ δι' αἶας [ἀντ. β.
μηλοβότου Φρυγίας διαμπάξ.
περὰ δὲ Τεύθραντος ἄστν Μυσῶν,⁹

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

land to grant thy heart's desire ; while I will go to
advance thy cause. May persuasion and effective
fortune attend me ! *[Exit with attendants]*

CHORUS

Lord of lords, most blessed among the blessed,
power most perfect among the perfect, O Zeus,
all-happy, hearken to us and from thy offspring
ward off in utter abhorrence the lust of men, and
in the purple sea whelm their black-benched pest !

Look thou benignly upon the women's cause,
look upon our race ancient in story, and recall the
gladsome tale of our ancestress, the woman of thy
love. Show that thou remembrest all, O thou who
didst lay thy hand upon Io. Lo, 'tis from Zeus that
we claim our line is sprung, and 'tis from this our
homeland that we went forth.

Hither am I come to the prints of ancient feet, my
mother's, even to the region where she was watched,
the while she browsed upon the flowers—into that
pasturing mead, whence Io, tormented by the
gad-fly's sting, fled in frenzy, traversing many tribes
of men, and in due accord with fate, cleaving asunder
the surging strait, made her bourne the land upon
the farther shore.

And through the land of Asia she hurls, straight
through sheep-pasturing Phrygia, and she passes
the city of Teuthras among the Mysians, and the

¹ πορσύνων : Heath.

³ γενέσθω : Schütz, Lobeck.

⁵ ἐφάπτωρ : Askew, Porson.

⁷ ἐνοικοι : Schütz.

² πείθου : Stanley.

⁴ <δ> Tucker.

⁶ δίας : Pauw.

⁸ ἰάπρετ βασιδος : Turn.

⁹ μουσῶν M, μυσῶν E.

- 550 Ἀΰδι¹ τε γύαλα,
καὶ δι' ὀρώ² Κυλίκων
Παμφύλων τε [γένη]³ διορυνμένα
καὶ⁴ ποταμούς⁵ ἀενάους
καὶ βαθύπλουτον χθόνα καὶ
555 τὰν⁶ Ἀφροδίτας⁷ πολύπυρον αἶαν.

ἱκνεῖται δὴ σινουμένα⁸ βέλει [στρ. γ.
βουκόλου πτερόεντος
Δῖον πάμβοτον ἄλσος,
λειμῶνα χιονόβοσκον, ὄντ' ἐπέρχεται
560 Τυφῶ μένος,
ὔδωρ τε⁹ Νείλου νόσοις ἄθικτον,
μαινομένα πόνοις ἀτί-
μοις ὀδύναις τε κεντροδα-
λήττισι¹⁰ θυιάς Ἥρας.

565 βροτοὶ δ', οἳ γὰς τότ' ἦσαν ἔννομοι, [ἀντ. γ.
χλωρῷ δείματι¹¹ θυμὸν
πάλλοντ' ὅψιν ἀήθη,
βοτὸν ἐσορῶντες δυσχερὲς μειξόμβροτον,¹²
τὰν μὲν βοός,
570 τὰν δ'¹³ αἰ γυναικός· τέρας δ' ἐθάμβουν.¹⁴
καὶ τότε¹⁵ δὴ τίς ἦν ὁ θέλ-
ξας πολὺπλαγκτον ἀθλίαν
οἰστροδόνητον Ἰώ;

δι' αἰῶνος κρέων¹⁶ ἀπαύστου [στρ. δ.
575 Ζεὺς . . .
Διὸς δ'¹⁷ ἀπημάντῳ σθένει
καὶ θεαίαις ἐπιπνοίαις
παύεται, δακρύων δ' ἀπο-
στάζει πένθιμον αἰδῶ.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

hollow vales of Lydia, across the mountains of the Cilicians and the Pamphylians, speeding over ever-flowing rivers and earth deep and rich, and the land of Aphrodite that teems with wheat.

Harassed by the sting of the winged herdsman she gains at last the fertile demesne sacred unto Zeus, that snow-fed mead assailed by Typho's fury, and the water of the Nile that no disease may touch—maddened by her ignominious toils and frenzied with the pain of Hera's torturing goad.

And mortals, who in those days were indwellers of the land, shook with pallid terror at the unwonted sight as they beheld a being fearsome, half-human, part of the race of kine and part of woman; and they were astonished at the monstrous thing. And then, at last, who was it that brought soothing to the far-wandering, the wretched, the sting-tormented Io?

Zeus, it was, through endless time, the lord, . . . and by the unwounding might of his hand, and by his breath divine, she gained rest, and let fall the

- | | |
|---|--|
| ¹ λόγιά: Turn. | ² ὄρων M, ὄρων m, ὄρων E. |
| ³ [γέννη] Heath. | ⁴ τὰν: καὶ Wilam. |
| ⁵ ποταμοὺς δ' M, ποταμοὺς G. | ⁶ τὰς: Herm. |
| ⁷ ἀφροδίτης: Turn. | |
| ⁸ εἰς ἱκνουμένου with the second ου in erasure, and -χ- above κ, M: Headlam. | ⁹ τὸ: Pauw. |
| ¹⁰ κεντροδαλήτοις: Erfurdt. | ¹¹ δέμακτι: Rob. |
| ¹² μῆζόμβροτον: Wilam. | ¹³ τὰν δ' M, τὰ δ' G ² . |
| ¹⁴ δὲ θαμβοῦν: Turn. | ¹⁵ τὸδε: Stephanus. |
| ¹⁶ Zeus αἰῶνος κρεῶν (m marg. κραίνων) M: Herm. | |
| ¹⁷ βία δ': Schütz. | |

- 580 λαβοῦσα δ' ἔρμα Δῖον ἀψευδεῖ λόγῳ
γείνατο παῖδ' ἀμεμφή,

δι' αἰῶνος μακροῦ πάνολβον· [ἀντ. δ.
ἐνθεν πᾶσα βοᾷ χθών,
“φυσιζόου¹ γένος τόδε”
585 Ζηγός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς·
τίς γάρ ἂν κατέπανσεν “Η-
ρας νόσους ἐπιβούλους;”
Διὸς τόδ' ἔργον καὶ τόδ' ἂν γένος λέγων
ἐξ Ἑπάφου κυρήσαις.

590 τίν' ἂν θεῶν ἐνδικωτέροισιν [στρ. ε.
κεκλοίμαν εὐλόγως ἐπ' ἔργοις;
αὐτὸς ὁ³ πατήρ φυτουργὸς αὐτόχειρ ἄναξ
γένους παλαιόφρων μέγας
τέκτων, τὸ πᾶν μῆχαρ οὐριος Ζεὺς.

595 ὑπ' ἀρχᾶς⁴ δ' οὐ τινος θαάζων [ἀντ. ε.
τὸ μείον κρείσσων⁵ κρατύνει.
οὐτινος⁶ ἄνωθεν ἡμένου⁷ σέβει κράτη⁸.
πάρεστι δ' ἔργον ὥς ἔπος
σπεῦσαι τι τῶν βούλιος⁹ φέρει φρήν.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

- 600 θαρσεῖτε παῖδες· εἶ τὰ τῶν ἐγχωρίων·
δήμου δέδοκται παντελεῖ ψηφίσματα.

¹ φυσιζοον: Schütz. ² τὸ δὴ ἂν: Porson.
³ αὐτὸς ὁ Heimsoeth from schol.
⁴ ἀρχὰς M: Schütz. ⁵ κρείσσον ἂν M: Turn.
⁶ οὐτινος corrected to ὀστινος M.
⁷ ἡμέν οὐ M: Turn. ⁸ κάτω: κράτη Voss.
⁹ δοῦλιος: Auratus.

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sorrowing shame of tears. She conceived a burden, in very truth of Zeus, and bare a blameless child,

Throughout long ages blessed altogether. Whence all the earth crieth aloud, "This is in very truth the seed of life-giving Zeus; for who else could have stayed the distemper visited on her by Hera's plot?" Call this the work of Zeus and this his race sprung from Epaphus and thou shalt hit the truth.

Who of the gods hath wrought deeds that, with good reason, warrant more fairly my appeal to him? Father himself and lord, he with his own hand planted us, he the mighty fashioner of our race, he ancient in wisdom, he who deviseth all things, whose breath prospereth all things, even Zeus.

He doth not sit upon his throne by authority of another and hold his dominion beneath a mightier. None there is who sitteth above him whose power he holdeth in awe. He speaketh and it is done—he he hasteneth to execute whatsoever his counselling mind conceiveth.¹

[*Re-enter Danaüs*]

DANAÛS

Be of good cheer, my children—on the part of the citizens all goes well. Decrees, carrying full authority, have been passed.

¹ The full force of this majestic and awe-inspiring passage, recalling the solemnity of Isaiah, can be reproduced only by paraphrase. Nearer the original is "He doth not, sitting <upon his throne> by the authority of any, bear a lesser sway delegated by superiors . . . But with him the deed is as the word to do swiftly aught of all his counselling mind conceiveth."

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ χαῖρε πρέσβυ, φίλτατ' ἀγγέλλων ἐμοί·
 ἔνισπε δ' ἡμῖν¹ ποῖ κεκύρωται² τέλος,
 δῆμου κρατοῦσα χεὶρ ὅπη πληθύνεται.³

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

- 605 ἔδοξεν Ἀργείοισιν οὐ διχορρόπως,
 ἀλλ' ὥστ' ἀνηβῆσαι⁴ με γηραιᾷ φρενί·
 πανδημία γὰρ χερσὶ δεξιωνύμοις
 ἔφριξεν αἰθὴρ τόνδε κραινόντων λόγον·
 ἡμᾶς μετοικεῖν τῆσδε γῆς ἐλευθέρους
 610 κάρρυσιάστους⁵ ξύν τ' ἄσυλία βροτῶν·
 καὶ μήτ' ἐνοίκων μήτ' ἐπηλύδων τινὰ
 ἄγειν· ἐὰν δὲ προστιθῇ τὸ καρτερόν,
 τὸν μὴ βοηθήσαντα τῶνδε γαμόρων
 ἄτιμον εἶναι ξύν φυγῇ δημηλάτῳ.
 615 τοιάνδ' ἔπειθεν ῥῆσιν ἀμφ' ἡμῶν λέγων
 ἄναξ Πελασγῶν, ἱκεσίου Ζηνὸς κότον
 μέγαν προφωνῶν⁶ μήποτ' εἰσόπιν χρόνου
 πόλιν παχύναι, ξενικὸν ἀστικόν θ' ἅμα
 λέγων διπλοῦν μίασμα πρὸ πόλεως φανέν
 620 ἀμύχανον βόσκημα πημονῆς πέλειν.
 τοιαῦτ' ἀκούων χερσὶν Ἀργεῖος λεῶς
 ἔκραν' ἄνευ κλητῆρος⁷ ὥς εἶναι τάδε.
 δημηγόρους δ' ἤκουσεν εὐπιθῆς⁸ στροφᾶς
 δῆμος Πελασγῶν· Ζεὺς δ' ἐπέκρανεν τέλος.

¹ ἐνόσπερ ἡμῖν MPE, ἔνεπε δ' ἡμῖν G: Rob.

² ποῖ κεκύρωται M: Rob.

³ χειροπληθύνεται: χεὶρ ὅπη Dobree, πληθύνεται Herm.

⁴ ὥς τ' ἂν ἠβῆσαιμι: Tyrwhitt.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

Hail, our envoy, harbinger of tidings most welcome.
But tell us—to what purport has the decision been
carried, and to what course does the majority of
the people's suffrages incline?

DANAÛS

Action was taken by the Argives, not by any doubtful vote but in such wise as to make my aged heart renew its youth. For the air bristled with right hands held aloft as, in full vote, they ratified this resolution into law: "That we be settlers in this land, be free, subject to no seizure, and secure from robbery of man; that no one, nor native nor alien, carry us captive; but, if recourse be had to violence, any landholder who refuses to rescue us, should both forfeit his rights and suffer public banishment." Such was the persuasive speech that the king of the Pelasgians spake in our behalf, uttering the solemn warning that never in after time should the city feed fat the wrath of Zeus, protector of the suppliant; and declaring withal that, should a twofold defilement—from strangers and from burghers at once—arise before the city, it would prove a breeder of distress past all relief. Hearing these words, the Argive folk, waiting for no proclamation of crier, decreed by uplifted hand that so it be. It was the Pelasgian people, won readily to assent, that heard the subtle windings of his speech; but it was Zeus who brought the end to pass.

⁵ καρυσιάστους: Turn. (κάρρ-).

⁶ πρόσφρων ὦν: Canter.

⁷ ἔκλαναν εὐκλήτορος: Turn.

⁸ εὐπειθεὶς altered from εὐπειθεῖς M: Bothe.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

625 ἄγε δὴ, λέξωμεν¹ ἐπ' Ἀργείοις
εὐχὰς ἀγαθὰς, ἀγαθῶν ποινάς.
Ζεὺς δ' ἐφορεύει ξένιος ξενίου
στόματος τιμὰς ἐπ' ἀληθεία,
τέρμον' ἄμεμπτον προσαπαντᾶν.²

630 νῦν ὅτε καί, θεοὶ
διογενεῖς, κλύουσ' εὐ-
κταῖα³ γένει⁴ χεούσας·
μήποτε πυρίφατον⁵
γὰν Πελασγίαν⁶ [πόλιν]⁷

635 τὸν ἄκορον βοᾷς⁸
κτίσαι μάχλον Ἄρη,
τὸν ἀρότοις θερί-
ζοντα βροτοὺς ἐν ἄλλοις,
οὐνεκ' ᾧκτισαν ἡμᾶς,
640 ψῆφον δ' εὐφρον' ἔθεντο,
αἰδοῦνται δ' ἱκέτας Διός,
ποιμναν τάνδ' ἀμέγαρτον·

οὐδὲ μετ' ἀρσένων
ψῆφον ἔθεντ' ἀτιμώ-
645 σαντες ἔριν γυναικῶν,
Δίον ἐπιδόμενοι
πράκτορά [τε]⁹ σκοπὸν
δυσπολέμητον, ὃν [οὐ]-¹⁰
τίς ἂν δόμος ἔχοι
650 ἐπ' ὀρόφων μιαι-
νοντα; βαρὺς δ' ἐφίλει.
ἄζονται γὰρ ὁμαίμους
Ζητὸς ἱκτορας ἀγνοῦ.

[στρ. α.

[ἀντ. α.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

Come, let us invoke blessings upon the Argives in requital for blessings. And may Zeus, the stranger's god, have regard to the offerings of gratitude voiced by a stranger's lips, that they may in true fulfilment reach their perfect goal.

Ye gods of heaven! Hearken now as I pour forth orisons for blessings upon our kindred. Never may the wanton lord of war, insatiate of battle-cry, destroy by fire this Pelasgian land, even Ares who reapeth a human harvest in alien fields; for that they had compassion upon us, and cast a vote in our favour, and have respect for our pitiable flock, suppliants in the name of Zeus.

Nor did they cast their suffrages upon the side of the males, holding of no account the women's cause, since they had regard unto the avenging eye of Zeus, against which there is no battling, and what house would have it upon its roof to its defiling? ¹ for heavily doth it sit thereon. For they take reverent heed of their kin, petitioners of holy Zeus; therefore

¹ By a sudden shift of metaphor, the eye of Zeus is likened to a foul bird whose pollution of the roof is an evil omen to the inmates of the house.

¹ λέξομεν: Turn.

² ἀμείπτων πρὸς ἅπαντα ME (ἀμειπτος G): Tucker after Salvini (ἀμειπτον), and Weil (ἀπαντᾶν).

³ εὐκτεα with αι over ε M.

⁵ πυρέφαγον: Turn.

⁷ [πόλιν] Klausen.

⁹ [τε] Bergk.

⁴ γένοι with η over ει M.

⁶ τὰν II. M: Bergk.

⁸ ἀχορον βοᾶν: Kruse.

¹⁰ [οὐ-] Burges.

655 τοιγάρτοι καθαροῖσι βω-
μοῖς θεοὺς ἀρέσονται.

660 τοιγὰρ ὑποσκίων
ἐκ στομάτων ποτά-
σθω φιλότιμος εὐχά,
μήποτε λοιμὸς ἀνδρῶν
τάνδε¹ πόλιν κενῶσαι·
μηδ' ἐπιχωρίοις <έρις>²
πτῶμασιν αἱματίσαι πέδον γᾶς.³
ἦβας δ' ἄνθος ἄδρεπτον
ἔστω, μηδ' Ἀφροδίτας
665 εὐνάτωρ βροτολοιγὸς Ἀ-
ρης κέρσειεν ἄωτον.

†καὶ γεραροῖσι πρε-
σβυτοδόκοι γεμόν-
των† θυμέλαι φλεγόντων.
670 τὼς πόλις⁴ εἰ νέμοιτο
Ζῆνα μέγαν⁵ σεβόντων,
τὸν ξένιον δ' ὑπερτάτως,⁶
ὅς⁷ πολὺν νόμῳ αἴσαν ὀρθοῖ.
τίκτεσθαι δ' ἐφόρους γᾶς
675 ἄλλους εὐχόμεθ' αἰεί,
Ἄρτεμιν δ' Ἑκάταν γυναι-
κῶν λόχους⁸ ἐφορεύειν.

μηδέ τις ἀνδροκμῆς
λοιγὸς ἐπελθέτω
680 τάνδε πόλιν δαΐζων,⁹
ἄχορον ἀκίθαριν¹⁰
δακρυογόνον Ἄρη
βοᾶν τ' ἐνδημον ἐξοπλίζων.¹¹

[στρ. β.

[ἀντ. β.

[στρ. γ.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

with pure altars shall they gain the grace of the gods.

Therefore let there fly forth from our overshadowed¹ lips a prayer of gratitude. Never may pestilence empty this city of its men nor strife stain the soil of the land with the blood of native slain. But may the flower of its youth be uncultured, and may Ares, the partner of Aphrodite's bed, he who maketh havoc of men, not shear off their bloom.

And may the altars, whereat the elders gather, blaze in honour of venerable men. Thus may their State be regulated well, if they hold in awe mighty Zeus, and, most of all, Zeus the warden of guest-right, who by venerable enactment guideth destiny aright. And that other guardians be always renewed, we pray; and that Artemis-Hecate² watch over the child-bed of their women.

And let no murderous havoc come upon the realm to ravage it, by arming Ares—foe to the dance and lute, parent of tears—and the shout of civil strife.

¹ Overshadowed by the suppliant branches, which, though now laid on the altar (l. 507), are still in imagination held before the faces of the Maidens.

² Artemis and Hecate were identified in Attic cult as early as the fifth century B.C. Cp. *Corp. Inscr. Att.* i. 208. The epithet *ἐκάρη* "far-darter," "archer" was, it seems, not applied as a common adjective to Artemis.

¹ τῶνδε: Fähsse.

² <ἔρις>: Heath.

³ τὰς: Porson.

⁴ τῶς πόλεις M: Rob.

⁵ μέγα: Aldina.

⁶ ὑπέρτατον M: H. L. Ahrens from schol.

⁷ ὅς M, ὥς m.

⁸ λόγους: Sophianus.

⁹ δαΐζων: Aldina.

¹⁰ ἀχορος κίθαρις M: Porson from Plut. *Amat.* 758 f.

¹¹ τε δῆμον ἔξω παίζων M, τε δῆμον ἐξοπλίζουσα Plut.: τ' ἐνδημον Pauw, ἐξοπλίζων Stanley.

685 νούσων δ' ἐσμὸς¹ ἀπ' ἀστῶν
Ἴζοι κρατὸς² ἀτερπής·
εὐμενῆς δ' ὁ Λύκειος³ ἔ-
στω πάσα⁴ νεολαία.⁵

καρποτελή⁶ δέ τοι [ἀντ. γ.
Ζεὺς ἐπικραινέτω
690 φέρματι γᾶν πανώρῳ.
πρόνομα δέ βότ' ἀγροῖς⁷
πολύγονα τελέθωι·

τὸ πᾶν τ' ἐκ δαιμόνων λάχοιεν.⁸
εὐφαιμον δ' ἐπὶ βωμοῖς
695 μοῦσαν θείατ'⁹ αἰοιδοί·
ἀγνῶν τ' ἐκ στομάτων φερέ-
σθω φάμα φιλοφόρμιγξ.

φυλάσσοι τ' ἀτρεμαῖα¹⁰ τιμὰς [στρ. δ.
τὸ δάμιον,¹¹ τὸ πτόλιν κρατύνει,
700 προμαθίς¹² εὐκονόμητις ἀρχά·
ξένοισί τ' εὐξυμβόλους,
πρὶν ἐξοπλίζειν Ἄρη,
δίκας ἄτερ πημάτων διδοῖεν.

θεοὺς δ', οἳ γᾶν ἔχουσιν, αἰεὶ [ἀντ. δ.
705 τίοιεν ἐγχωρίοις πατρώαις¹³
δαφνηφόροις¹⁴ βουθύτοισι τιμαῖς.
τὸ γὰρ τεκόντων σέβας
τρίτον τόδ' ἐν θεσμίοις
Δίκας γέγραπται μεγιστοτίμου.

¹ δεσμὸς: Turn.

² λύκειος: Arnaldus.

³ νεολαίαι with ε over λαι M.

⁷ βρότατος: Tucker.

² κράτος M: H. Voss.

⁴ πᾶσα M, πᾶσαι m.

⁶ καρποτελεῖ: Stanley.

⁸ λάθοιεν: Dindorf.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

And may the joyless swarm of diseases settle far from the heads of the burghers, and to all the young folk may Lyceüs¹ be graciously disposed.

And may Zeus cause the earth to render its tribute of fruit by the produce of every season; may their grazing cattle in the fields have abundant increase, and may they obtain all things from the heavenly powers. May minstrels sing hymns of praise at the altars; and from pure lips let there proceed the chant that attends the harp.

And may the people that controls the State guard its privileges free from fear—a prudent government counselling wisely for the public weal. And ere they have recourse to arms may they inflict no loss, but grant just rights of covenant unto the stranger within their gates.

And may they worship for evermore the gods who possess the land with native honours of laurel bough upborne, and oxen slain, even as their fathers did before their time; since reverence for parents—this standeth written third among the statutes of Justice, to whom honour supreme is due.

¹ The epithet Lyceüs, often applied to Apollo, was commonly connected with the belief that he was the destroyer and protector of wolves (λύκοι). As a destructive power he is invoked to ward off enemies (*Seven against Thebes*, 145); as an averter of evil he protects herds, flocks, and the young. According to Pausanias (ii. 19. 3) Danaüs established a sanctuary in honour of Lyceüs at Argos, where, in later times, the most famous of all Apollo's temples was consecrated to him under the title of "Wolf-god."

⁹ εὐφήμοις . . . μούσαι θεαί τ' : Herm.

¹⁰ τ' ἀτιμίας M (ἀσφαλίας m marg.) : Butler.

¹¹ δῆμιον : Dindorf. ¹² προμηθεὺς with α over η M : Herm.

¹³ ἐνχωρίοις πατρώϊας changed to ἐνχωρίους πατρώϊαις M.

¹⁴ δαφνηφόροισιν (with final ν deleted) M.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

- 710 εὐχὰς μὲν αἰνῶ τάσδε σῶφρονας, φίλαι·
 ὑμεῖς δὲ μὴ¹ τρέσητ' ἀκούσασαι πατρὸς
 ἀπροσδοκίτους τούσδε καὶ νέους λόγους.
 ἱκεταδόκου γὰρ τῆσδ' ἀπὸ σκοπῆς ὄρῳ
 τὸ πλοῖον. εὖσημον γὰρ οὗ με λανθάνει·
- 715 στολμοί τε λαΐφους καὶ παραρρύσεις νεώς,
 καὶ πρῶρα πρόσθεν ὄμμασιν² βλέπουσ' ὁδόν,
 οἴακος εὐθυντήρος³ ὑστάτου νεώς
 ἄγαν καλῶς κλύουσα, τοῖσιν⁴ οὐ φίλη.
 πρέπουσι δ' ἄνδρες νάιοι⁵ μελαγχίμοις
- 720 γυίοισι⁶ λευκῶν ἐκ πεπλωμάτων ἰδεῖν,
 καὶ τᾶλλα πλοῖα πᾶσά θ' ἢ ἴπικουρία
 εὐπρεπτος· αὐτῇ δ' ἡγεμῶν ὑπὸ χθόνα
 στείλασα λαΐφος παγκρότως ἐρέσσεται.
 ἀλλ' ἡσύχως χρή καὶ σεσωφρονισμένως
- 725 πρὸς πρᾶγμ' ὀρώσας τῶνδε μὴ ἀμελεῖν θεῶν.
 ἐγὼ δ' ἄρωγους ξυνδίκους θ' ἤξω λαβῶν.
 ἴσως γὰρ ἂν⁷ κῆρυξ τις ἢ πρέσβη μόλοι,⁸
 ἄγειν θέλοντες ῥυσίων ἐφάπτορες.
 ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἔσται τῶνδε· μὴ τρέσητέ⁹ νιν.
- 730 ὅμως <δ'>¹⁰ ἄμεινον, εἰ βραδύνοιμεν βοῇ,
 ἀλκῆς λαθέσθαι τῆσδε μηδαμῶς ποτε.
 θάρσει¹¹ χρόνῳ τοι κυρίῳ τ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
 θεοὺς ἀτίζων τις βροτῶν δώσει δίκην.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- πάτερ, φοβοῦμαι, νῆες ὥς ὠκύπτεροι
 735 ἦκουσι· μήκος δ' οὐδὲν ἐν μέσῳ χρόνου.

¹ ὑμεῖς δὲ μήτρες αἰεῖ: Turn.

² ὄμμασιν M, ὄμμασι E.

³ συνουτήρος: Turn.

⁴ τῶσ. ἂν M, τῶς ἂν E, τῶσ' ἂν G: Herwerden.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

DANAÛS

I commend these, your reasonable prayers, dear children; but be not troubled yourselves when ye hear the unexpected and startling tidings your father has to tell. From my post of look-out here on the sanctuary of suppliants I descry their barque; for 'tis well-marked and escapes me not: the trimming of its sail, its side-guards, and the prow that with its eyes scans its onward course, obeying—all too well for those to whom it is unfriendly—the guiding rudder at the stern. The men on board are plainly seen, their swart limbs showing from out their white attire. The rest of the ships and all the assisting fleet stand clear in view: but the leader herself has furled her sail and draws near the shore with full sweep of sounding oars. Yet ye must face the matter calmly and with self-control, and not be unmindful of yonder gods. For my part, I will secure me men-at-arms and advocates to urge our cause, and return anon. Haply some herald or envoys may come, eager to seize on you for prize and hale you hence—but there shall be naught of this: fear them not. Yet in the event that we should be slow in bringing succour, 'twere better not for a moment to forget the means of help ye have here at hand. Courage! In good time, assuredly, and on the day ordained, he who contemns the gods shall suffer punishment.

CHORUS

Father, I am adread—with what swift wings the ships approach! No long interval of time is left.

⁵ νῆμοι: Dindorf.

⁷ ἦ: ἂν Burges.

⁶ γύοισι MG, γυίοισι E.

⁸ πρεσβήμολοι MGP: Lobeck.

⁹ πρέσσετε with η over αi M.

¹⁰ <δ> Geel.

¹¹ θαρσείτε: Turn.

περίφοβόν μ' ἔχει τάρβος ἐτητύμῳς [στρ. α.
πολυδρόμου φυγᾶς ὄφελος εἴ τί μοι.
παροίχομαι, πάτερ, δείματι.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

740 ἐπεὶ τελεία ψῆφος Ἀργείων, τέκνα,
θάρσει, μαχοῦνται περὶ σέθεν, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.¹

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

ἐξώλές ἐστι μάργον² Αἰγύπτου γένος
μάχης τ' ἄπληστον· καὶ λέγω πρὸς εἰδότα.

δοριπαγεῖς³ δ' ἔχοντες κυανώπιδας [ἀντ. α.
νῆας ἐπλευσαν ὧδ' ἐπιτυχεῖ⁴ κότῳ
745 πολεῖ⁵ μελαγχίμῳ⁶ σὺν στρατῷ.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

πολλοὺς δέ γ' εὐρήσουσιν ἐν μεσημβρίας⁷
θάλπει βραχίον'⁸ εὖ κατερρηνημένους.

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

μόνην δέ μὴ πρόλειπε⁹ λίσσομαι, πάτερ.
γυνὴ μονωθεῖς¹⁰ οὐδέν· οὐκ ἔνεστ' Ἀρης.

750 οὐλόφρονες¹¹ δέ καὶ δολιομήτιδες¹² [στρ. β.
δυσάγνοις φρεσίν,¹³ κόρακες ὥστε, βω-
μῶν ἀλέγοντες οὐδέν.

¹ ἐγών: Turn.

² ἐξώλεσσ τίμαργον M: Turn.

³ δορυπαγεῖς: Weil.

⁴ ἐπεὶ τάχει M. ἐπὶ τύχῃ G¹, ἐπὶ τύχει G²: Turn.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

I am possessed by dreadful fear whether in very truth my long flight has availed me aught. Father, I am fordone with fright.

DANAÛS

Since the vote of the Argives was final, be of good cheer, my children ; they will fight in your defence, I know full well.

[CHORUS]

Abominable is the lustful race of Aegyptus and insatiate of battle ; and that thou too knowest well.

In ships, stout-timbered and dark-prowed, have they sailed hither, attended by a mighty and a swarthy host, and in their wrath overtaken us.

DANAÛS

Aye, but they will find here a host with arms well seasoned by the noonday heat.

[CHORUS]

Leave me not forlorn, I implore thee, father. A woman abandoned to herself is naught. There is no fight in her.

Evil of mind are they, and guileful of purpose, with impure hearts, recking naught of altars more than carrion birds.

⁵ πόλει: Stanley.

⁷ μεσημβρίαί M: Schütz.

⁹ πρόλιπε: Turn.

¹¹ δολομήτιδες: Askew's margin.

⁶ μελαχέιμω M: Turn.

⁸ θάλλπει βραχείον M: Turn.

¹⁰ δουλόφρονες: Valckenaer.

¹² φρεσσιν M, φρεσι E.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

καλῶς ἂν ἡμῖν ξυμφέροι ταῦτ', ὦ τέκνα,
εἰ σοί τε καὶ θεοῖσιν ἐχθαιοῖατο.

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

755 οὐ μὴ τριαῖνας τάσδε καὶ θεῶν σέβῃ
δείσαντες ἡμῶν χεῖρ' ἀπόσχονται, πάτερ.

περίφρονες δ' ἄγαν ἀνιέρω μένει [ἀντ. β.
μεμαργωμένοι κυνοθρασεῖς, θεῶν
οὐδὲν ἐπαῖοντες.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

760 ἀλλ' ἔστι φήμη τοὺς λύκους κρείσσους¹ κυνῶν
εἶναι· βύβλου δὲ καρπὸς οὐ κρατεῖ στάχυν.

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

ὥς καὶ ματαίων ἀνοσίων τε κνωδάλων
ἔχοντας² ὀργάς, χρή φυλάσσεσθαι τάχος.³

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

765 οὔτοι ταχεῖα⁴ ναυτικοῦ στρατοῦ στολή,⁵
οὐδ'⁶ ὄρμος, οὐ δεῖ πεισμάτων⁷ σωτήρια⁸
ἐς γῆν ἐνεγκεῖν, οὐδ' ἐν⁹ ἀγκυρουχίαις
θαρσοῦσι ναῶν ποιμένες παραυτίκα,
ἄλλως τε¹⁰ καὶ μολόντες ἀλίμενον χθόνα
ἐς νύκτ' ἀποστείχοντος ἡλίου. φιλεῖ

¹ κρείσσους E, κρείσσων with ους over ων M, κρείσσονας G.

² ἔχοντες: Turn.

³ κράτος: Tucker.

⁴ ταχεῖα G, ταχείαι M.

⁵ στολῇ M: Turn.

⁶ οὐδὲ: Bamberger.

⁷ πεισμάτων: Vict.

⁸ σωτηρίου MEG², σωτηρίαν G¹: Scaliger.

⁹ οὐδὲν: Rob.

¹⁰ ἀλλ' ὥστε: Vict.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

DANAÛS

Rarely would this profit us, my children, should they incur both Heaven's hate and yours.

[CHORUS]

Father, no fear of yon tridents or of things held sacred in the sight of Heaven will ever stay their hands from us.

Full too overweening are they, maddened, with unholy rage, shameless dogs, that hearken not unto the gods.

DANAÛS

Yet there is a saw that wolves o'er-master dogs ;
the byblus-fruit mastereth not the wheat-ear.¹

[CHORUS]

Since they have the tempers of lewd and impious beasts, we must guard against them speedily.

DANAÛS

Not speedy is a fleet in getting under way, nor yet in anchoring, when there is need to bring ashore the securing cables ; and even at anchorage shepherds of ships feel not at once secure, above all if they have arrived on a harbourless coast when the sun is sinking into night. In a cautious pilot night is wont

¹ Distinctive foods mark national differences—the Egyptians are no match for the Argives. Theophrastus, in his *History of Plants*, 4. 8, reports that the inhabitants of Egypt chew papyrus, raw, boiled, or roasted.

- 770 ὠδῖνα τίκτειν¹ νύξ κυβερνήτη σοφῶ.
οὕτω γένοιτ' ἂν οὐδ' ἂν ἔκβασις στρατοῦ
καλή, πρὶν ὄρμῳ ναῦν θρασυνθῆναι. σὺ δὲ
φρόνει² μὲν ὥς ταρβοῦσα μὴ ἀμελεῖν θεῶν.
775 πράξας ἀρωγὴν· ἄγγελον δ' οὐ μέμψεται
πόλις γέρονθ', ἡβῶντα δ' εὐγλώσσω³ φρενί.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- ἰὼ γὰ βοῦνι, πάνδικον⁵ σέβας, [στρ. α.
τί πεισόμεσθα; ποῖ φύγωμεν Ἀπίας
χθονός, κελαινὸν εἴ τι κεῦθός ἐστί που;
μέλας γενοίμαν καπνὸς
780 νέφεσσι⁶ γειτονῶν⁷ Διός·
τὸ πᾶν δ' ἄφαντος
ἀμπετῆς αἰδνός⁸ ὥς
κόνις ἀτερθε⁹ πτερύγων ὀλοίμαν.
ἄφυκτον δ' οὐκέτ' ἂν πέλοι κακόν¹⁰ [ἀντ. α.
785 κελαινόχρως¹¹ δὲ πάλλεται μου καρδία.
πατὴρ σκοπαὶ δέ μ' εἶλον¹² οἴχομαι φόβῳ.
θέλωμι δ' ἂν μορσίμου
βρόχου τυχεῖν ἐν ἀρτάναις,¹³
πρὶν ἄνδρ' ἀπευκτόν
790 τῶδε χριμθῆναι χροῖ¹⁴
πρόπαρ θανούσας <δ' >¹⁵ Αἰδᾶς ἀνάσσοι.
πόθεν δέ μοι γένοιτ' ἂν αἰθέρος θρόνος, [στρ. β.
πρὸς δὲ νέφη μυδληλὰ¹⁶ γίγνεται¹⁷ χιών,
ἢ λισσὰς αἰγίλιψ ἀπρόσ-

¹ τίκτει: Turn. ² φρονεῖ: Rob. ³ lacuna: Hartung.

⁴ εὐγλώσσω (s marked to be deleted) M, εὐγλώσω E: Rob.

⁵ βουνίτι ἐνδικον: Paley.

⁶ νέφεσι: Arnaldus.

⁷ γειτόνων: Turn.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

to beget travail of mind. Then, too, the disembarking of a force-at-arms cannot be effected with success before a ship has gained confidence in her moorings. But, for all thy terror, do thou be minded not to neglect the gods. [I will return] when I have secured succour. The city shall find no fault with a messenger, old in years, but with youth in his heart and on his tongue.

[Exit

CHORUS

O land of hills, land of our righteous veneration, what is to be our lot? To what region in the Apian land are we to flee, if anywhere there be some dark hiding-place? Ah that I might become black smoke that draws nigh unto the clouds of Zeus; or, soaring aloft without wings, vanish quite out of sight like viewless dust and dissolve into nothingness!

The evil no longer admits of escape; my heart is darkened and a-quiver; the look-out my father held hath wrought me ruin. I am undone with terror. Rather would I meet my doom in a halter-noose than suffer the embraces of a man I loathe. Death ere that, with Hades for my lord and master!

Ah that somewhere in the upper air I might find a seat 'gainst which the dank clouds turn into snow, or some bare, inaccessible crag, outranging sight,

⁸ ἀμπετήσας δόσως M: ἀμπετής Enger, αἰδνός Kirchhoff.

⁹ ἄτερθεν M, ἄτερθε E. ¹⁰ κέαρ: κακόν Schütz.

¹¹ μελανόχρους: Pauw. ¹² πατροσκοπαι δὲ μείλον: Vict.

¹³ σαργάναις MGE, ἀρτάναις P.

¹⁴ τῷδ' ἐχριμφθῆν χροῖν M, τῷδε χριμφθῆναι P, χροῖ E.

¹⁵ <δ> Burgard. ¹⁶ νέφη δ' ὑδρηλά: Tucker.

¹⁷ γέινεται: Aldina.

- 795 δεικτος οἰόφρων κρεμάς
 γυπιάς πέτρα, βαθύ
 πτώμα μαρτυροῦσά μοι,
 πρὶν δαΐκτορος βία
 καρδίας γάμου κυρῆσαι;
- 800 κυσὶν¹ δ' ἔπειθ' ἔλωρα κάπιχωρίοις [ἀντ. β.
 ὄρνισι δεῖπνον² οὐκ ἀναίνομαι πέλειν·
 τὸ γὰρ θανεῖν ἐλευθεροῦ-
 ται φιλαϊάκτων κακῶν. [ἐλθέτω]³
 ἐλθέτω μόρος, πρὸ κοι-
 805 τας γαμηλίου τυχῶν.
 ἀμφυγᾶς τίν' ἔτι πόρον⁴
 τέμνω γάμου λυτῆρα;⁵
- ἔνζε⁶ δ' ὀμφάν οὐρανίαν⁷ [στρ. γ.
 <μέλεα>⁸ μέλη λιτανὰ θεοῖς.⁹
 810 τέλεα δέ πως¹⁰ πελόμενά μοι
 λύσιμά τ' ἄχιμά τ'¹¹ ἐπιδε, πάτερ,
 βίαια μὴ φαιδρῶς¹² ὀρῶν
 ὄμμασιν ἐνδίκοις.
 815 σεβίζου δ' ἱκέτας σέθεν,
 γαιάοχε παγκρατὲς Ζεῦ.
- γένος γὰρ Αἰγύπτειον¹³ ὕβριω [ἀντ. γ.
 δύσφορον ἄρσενογενὲς
 μετὰ με δρόμοισι διόμενοι
 820 φυγάδα μάταισι πολυθρόοις
 βίαια δίζηνται λαβεῖν.
 σὸν δ' ἐπίπαν ζυγὸν
 ταλάντου. τί δ' ἄνευ¹⁴ σέθεν
 θνατοῖσι¹⁵ τέλειόν ἐστιν ;

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

brooding in solitude, beetling, vulture-haunted, to bear witness to my plunge into the depths ere ever I be forced into a wedlock that would pierce my heart!

Thereafter I refuse not to become a prey to dogs and a feast to the birds that make the place their home; for to be dead is to be freed from sorrow and sighing. Come death, death be my doom, before the marriage-bed! How can I even yet find some means of escape to deliver me from wedlock?

Shriek aloud, with a cry that reaches unto heaven, strains of supplication unto the gods; and do thou, O Father, give heed that they in some wise be accomplished to my safety and tranquillity. Behold deeds of violence with no kindly glance in thy just eyes! Have respect unto thy suppliants, O Zeus, omnipotent upholder of the land!

For the males of the race of Aegyptus, intolerable in their wantonness, chase after me, a fugitive, with clamorous lewdness and seek to lay hold of me with violence. But Thine altogether is the beam of the balance, and without Thee what is there that cometh to its accomplishment for mortal man?

[The Herald of the Egyptians with armed followers is seen at a distance]

¹ κύσειν MGE: Rob.

² δειπναν ME, δειπνον G.

³ [ἐλθέτω] Pauw.

⁴ τίν' ἀμφ' αὐτὰς ἔτι πόρον M: ἀμφυγὰς Weil after Herm.

⁵ καὶ λυτήρια: Pauw.

⁶ ἔνθεν: Rob.

⁷ οὐράνια: Aldina.

⁸ <μέλεα> H. Voss.

⁹ θεοῖς καὶ: H. Voss.

¹⁰ δέ μοι πῶς: Burney.

¹¹ λύσιμα μάχιμα δ': Wilam.

¹² φιλεῖς: Weil.

¹³ αἰγύπτιον: Herm.

¹⁴ πιδανευ: Rob.

¹⁵ θνατοῖς: Bothe.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

Ho! Ha! Here on the land is the pirate from the ship! Ere that, pirate, mayest thou perish . . . I see in this the prelude of suffering wrought by violence. Oh! Oh! Fly for protection! Savagery past all bearing by its insolence on sea and land alike. Lord of the land, protect us!

[HERALD]

Away with you, away to the barque, fast as ever your feet can take you! Ah well then, if you won't, your hair shall be torn out; you'll be pricked with goads, and off shall come your heads with plenteous letting of gory blood. Away with you, away—and a murrain on you!—to the ships.

[CHORUS]

Would that on your course over the great briny flood you had perished along with your lordly arrogance and your riveted barque! . . .

[HERALD]

I charge you, stop your shrieking. . . . Ho there!

¹ μάστις: Turn.

³ γαῖ ἄναξ: Headlam.

⁵ εἰθάνα: Herm.

⁷ δορί: Herm.

² πρόμαρπι: Stephanus.

⁴ <ἐχέτε> Hartung.

⁶ πολύρρυτον: Wellauer.

⁸ ἰὼ ἰὼν: Herm.

λεῖψ' ἔδρανα,¹ κί' ἐς δόρυ.
ἀτίετον ἄπολιν² οὐ σέβω.³

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

μήποτε πάλιν ἴδοιμ'⁴
855 ἀλφεισίβοιον ὕδωρ,
ἐνθεν ἀεζόμενον⁵
ζώφντον αἶμα βροτοῖσι θάλλει.
ἐγγαιος⁶ ἐγὼ βαθυχαῖος
860 †βαθρείας βαθρείας, γέρον.†

[ἀντ. α.]

<ΚΗΡΤΞ>

οὐ δ' ἐν ναῖ ναῖ βάσῃ
τάχα θέλεος ἀθέλεος,
βία βία τε πολλᾷ φρουδα.
†βάτεαι βαθυμιτροκακὰ παθῶν†
865 [ὀλόμεναι παλάμαις].⁷

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ.
αἶ γάρ⁸ δυσπαλάμως ὄλοιο
δι' ἀλίρρυτον⁹ ἄλσος,
κατὰ Σαρπηδόνιον
870 χῶμα πολύψαμμον¹⁰ ἀλαθεῖς
Εὐρεΐαισιν¹¹ αὔραις.

[στρ. β.]

ΚΗΡΤΞ

ἦζε καὶ λάκαζε καὶ κάλει θεούς.
Αἰγυπτίαν γὰρ βᾶριν οὐχ ὑπερθορῇ.
[ἦζε καὶ]¹²
875 βόα, χέον πικρότερον¹³ οἰζύος νόμον.¹⁴

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

quit the sanctuary, be off to the ship! I stand in no awe of one without honour and city.

[CHORUS]

Never again may my eyes behold the cattle-nurturing stream whence increase cometh unto men and vigour of the blood of life! I native here, of ancient nobility . . . old man.

[HERALD]

You'll get you speedily on ship-board, on ship-board, I say, whether you will or not, by force, by force. . . .

[CHORUS]

Alas, alas! So may you perish past all help, driven from your course over the surging mead by eastern breezes off the sandy barrow of Sarpedon!

HERALD

Wail and shout and call upon the gods—thou shalt not escape the Egyptian barque. Cry out, utter a strain of woe more bitter still.

¹ ἰδρανα: Rob.

³ εὐσεβῶν: Butler.

⁵ δεξιόμενον: Scaliger.

⁷ [δλ. παλ.] Peiper.

⁹ ἀλλήρυτον: Rob.

¹¹ εὐρείαις εἰν: Paley.

¹³ μικρότερ' ἀχέων: Sidgwick (πικ. Emper, χέων Weil).

¹⁴ ὄνομ' ἔχων: Burges.

² ἀτιέτανα πόλιν: Peiper.

⁴ εἶδοι with ι over ει M: Butler.

⁶ ἄγχιος: Weil.

⁸ καὶ γὰρ: Heath.

¹⁰ πολυψάμαθον: Emper.

¹² [ἔντε καὶ] Burney.

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

οἰοῖ οἰοῖ,
 λύμας, ᾧ σὺ πρὸ γὰς ὑλάσκων¹ [ἀντ. β.
 περί, χάμψα,² βρυάζεις·
 ὃς ἐπωπᾶ³ σ', ὃ μέγας
 880 Νεῖλος, ὑβρίζοντά σ' ἀποτρέ-
 ψειεν αἰστον⁴ ὕβριν.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

βαίνειν κελεύω βάρυν εἰς ἀμφίστροφον⁵
 ὅσον⁶ τάχιστα· μηδέ τις⁷ σχολάζετω.
 ὀλκὴ γὰρ οὔτοι πλόκαμον οὐδάμ' ἄζεται.⁸

ΧΟΡΟΣ

885 οἰοῖ, πάτερ, βρέτεος ἄρος [στρ. γ.
 ἀτᾶ μ'· ἄλαδ' ἄγει⁹
 ἄραχνος ὡς βάδην.
 ὄναρ ὄναρ μέλαν,
 890 ὀτοτοτοτοῖ,
 μᾶ Γᾶ μᾶ Γᾶ, βοᾶν
 φοβερὸν ἀπότρεπε,
 ὦ πᾶ,¹⁰ Γᾶς παῖ, Ζεῦ.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

οὔτοι φοβοῦμαι δαίμονας τοὺς ἐνθάδε·
 οὐ γάρ μ' ἔθρεψαν, οὐδ' ἐγήρασαν τροφῇ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

895 μαιμᾶ¹¹ πέλας δίπους ὄφιν· [ἀντ. γ.

¹ λύμασις ὑπρογασυλακτεῖ with οἱ over εἰ M: λύμας Dindorf,
 σὺ πρὸ γὰς Herm., ὑλάσκων Enger.

² περιχαμπτά: R. Ellis.

³ ὃς ἐρωτᾶς: Emper.

⁴ σε ἀποτρέψει ἐναιστον: Turn.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

[CHORUS]

Alas, alas the brutal outrage with which, you crocodile, you wax wanton, bellowing on the sea. May the mighty Nile, who watches you, overwhelm your arrogance and bring you to naught!

HERALD

I charge you, get ye with your utmost speed to the double-prowed barque. Let none loiter, no! for haling, I tell ye, has no mercy on locks of hair.

CHORUS

Alas, father; the help of the sacred images deludes me. Like a spider, he is carrying me seaward step by step—a nightmare, a black nightmare! Alack, alack! Mother Earth, mother Earth, avert his fearful cries! O father Zeus, son of Earth!

HERALD

I fear not the gods of the place—mark ye that. They reared me not, nor by their nurture did they bring me to old age.

CHORUS

He rages close to me, the two-footed serpent. . .

⁵ ἀντίστροφον: schol. Porson.

⁷ τι: Turn.

⁹ βροτιοσα ροσεται μαλδαάγει M: βρότεος ἄρος ἅτα Eust. Od.

1422. 19: βρέτεος Abresch, ἅλαδ' Schütz.

¹⁰ βᾶ: Valckenaer.

⁶ ὄρον: Rob.

⁸ οὐ δαμάζεται: Pauw.

¹¹ μαιμαι: Rob.

AESCHYLUS

ἔχιδνα δ' ὥς μέ τις¹
πόδα δακοῦσ'² ἔχει.

900 ὀτοτοτοτοῖ,
μᾶ Γᾶ μᾶ Γᾶ βοᾶν
φοβερὸν ἀπότρεπε,
ὦ πᾶ, Γᾶς παῖ, Ζεῦ.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

εἰ μή τις ἐς ναῦν εἰσιν αἰνέσας τάδε,
λακὶς χιτῶνος ἔργον οὐ κατοικτιεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

908 διωλόμεσθ'· ἄσεπτ', ἀναξ,³ πάσχομεν.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

905 906 πολλοὺς ἄνακτας, παῖδας Αἰγύπτου, τάχα⁴
907 ὄψεσθε· θαρσεῖτ', οὐκ ἐρεῖτ' ἀναρχίαν.⁵

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

905 ἰὼ πόλεως ἀγοὶ πρόμοι,⁶ δάμναμαι.

<ΚΗΡΤΞ>

909 ἔλξειν ἔοιχ' ὑμᾶς ἀποσπάσας κόμης,
910 910 ἐπεὶ οὐκ ἀκούετ' ὄξυ' τῶν ἐμῶν λόγων.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

οὗτος, τί ποιεῖς; ἐκ ποίου φρονήματος
ἀνδρῶν Πελασγῶν τήνδ' ἀτιμάξεις χθόνα;
ἀλλ' ἡ γυναικῶν ἐς πόλιν δοκεῖς μολεῖν;

¹ τί: Herm.

² ποτ' ἐν δακυσάχ M: Kruse.

³ διωλόμεσθα ἐπτάναξ M: Tucker.

⁴ ll. 905 and 908 transposed: Wilam.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

Like some viper he lays hold of me and bites my foot. Alack, alack! Mother Earth, mother Earth, avert his fearful cries! O father Zeus, son of Earth!

HERALD

If thou wilt not resign thyself and get thee to ship, rending shall have no pity on the fabric of thy raiment.

CHORUS

We are lost! O King, we are suffering impious violence!

HERALD

Oh, kings a-plenty shall ye see anon in Aegyptus' sons. Be of good cheer, ye shall not have to tell of lack of government.

[CHORUS]

What ho! Chiefs and rulers of the city, I am threatened with violence!

[HERALD]

Methinks I shall have to seize you by the hair and drag you off since ye are slow to heed my orders.

[Enter the King with retainers]

KING

Sirrah! What dost thou? What manner of arrogance has incited thee thus to do dishonour to this realm of Pelasgian men? Think'st thou, forsooth, 'tis to a land of women thou art come?

⁵ θάρσει τοῦ χερεὶ παραρχίαν M: Rob.

⁶ πρόμνοι: Stanley.

⁷ οὐ κακοῦ ἐξέυ MG: Porson.

915 κάρβανος ὦν δ'¹ Ἑλλησιν ἐγγλίεις ἄγαν·
καὶ πόλλ' ἁμαρτῶν οὐδὲν ὠρθωσας φρενί.²

ΚΗΡΤΞ

τί δ' ἡμπλάκηται τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ δίκης ἄτερ;

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΤΣ

ξένος μὲν εἶναι πρῶτον οὐκ ἐπίστασαι.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

πῶς δ' οὐχί; τᾶμ' ὀλωλόθ' εὐρίσκων ἄγω.³

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΤΣ

ποίοισιν εἰπὼν προξένους⁴ ἐγχωρίους;

ΚΗΡΤΞ

920 Ἑρμῇ μεγίστῳ προξένῳ μαστηρίῳ.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΤΣ

θεοῖσιν εἰπὼν τοὺς θεοὺς οὐδὲν σέβη.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

τοὺς ἀμφὶ Νεῖλον δαίμονας σεβίζομαι.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΤΣ

οἱ δ' ἐνθάδ' οὐδέν, ὥς ἐγὼ σέθεν κλύω⁵;

¹ δ' ὦν: Porson.

² ὠρθωσα MG, φρενὶ M (φρενὶ G): Rob.

³ τ' ἀπολωλόθ' . . . ἐγώ: Porson.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

For a barbarian that has to do with Hellenes, thou waxest over-proud. Many are the misses of thy wits, and thy hits are none.

HERALD

And in this case wherein have I done amiss and transgressed my right?

KING

First of all, thou dost not know how to demean thyself as a stranger.

HERALD

I not know? How so, when I but find and take mine own that I had lost?

KING

To what patrons of thy land was thy notice given?

HERALD

To Hermes, the Searcher, greatest of patrons.

KING

For all thy notice to the gods, thou hast no reverence unto them.

HERALD

'Tis the deities by the Nile that I revere.

KING

While ours are naught, as I understand from thee?

⁴ προσξένοis : Vict.

⁵ κάτω : κλύω Rob.

ΚΗΡΥΞ

ἄγοιμ' ἄν, εἴ τις τάσδε μὴ ῥαιρήσεται.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

925 κλάοις¹ ἄν, εἰ ψεύσεαις, οὐ μάλ'² ἐς μακράν.

ΚΗΡΥΞ

ἤκουσα τοῦπος <δ'>³ οὐδαμῶς φιλόξενον.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

οὐ γὰρ ξενοῦμαι τοὺς θεῶν συλήτορας.

ΚΗΡΥΞ

λέγοιμ'⁴ ἄν ἐλθὼν παισὶν Αἰγύπτου τάδε.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ἀβουκόλητον τοῦτ' ἐμῷ φρονήματι.

ΚΗΡΥΞ

930 ἀλλ' ὥς ἄν εἰδὼς ἐννέπω σαφέστερον,—
καὶ γὰρ πρέπει κήρυκ' ἀπαγγέλλειν⁵ τορῶς
ἕκαστα,—πῶς φῶ, πρὸς τίνος τ' ἀφαιρεθεῖς
ἦκειν⁶ γυναικῶν αὐτανέψιον στόλον;
οὗτοι δικάζει ταῦτα μαρτύρων ὕπο
935 Ἑρμῆ· τὸ νεῖκος δ' οὐκ ἐν ἀργύρου λαβῇ
ἔλυσεν· ἀλλὰ πολλὰ γίγνεται⁷ πάρος
πρῶτον⁸ ἀνδρῶν κάπολακτισμοὶ βίου.

¹ κλάεις M, with *οι* over *ει* m.

³ <δ'> Headlam.

² οὐδὲ μάλ': Rob.

⁴ λέγοις: Heath.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

HERALD

I shall carry off these maids unless someone shall tear them away.

KING

Dost thou but touch them, thou shalt smart for it, and that right soon.

HERALD

I hear thee ; and thy speech is far from hospitable.

KING

No, since for despoilers of the gods I have no hospitality.

HERALD

I will go and tell Aegyptus' sons of this.

KING

My proud spirit will not ponder on this threat.

HERALD

But that I may know and tell a plainer tale (for it beseems a herald to make exact report in each particular)—what message am I to deliver? Who is it, am I to tell on my return, that has despoiled me of this band of women, their own cousins? 'Tis not, I trow, by voice of witnesses that the god of battle judgeth cases like this ; nor is it by the gift of silver that he settleth dispute ; no ! ere that, many a one shall fall and shuffle off his life.

⁵ ἀπαγγέλειν M, -έλλειν E.

⁶ ἤκουν M, ἤκειν m E.

⁷ γίνεται M, γίγνεται E.

<ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ>

- τί σοι λέγειν χρή τοὔνομ'; ἐν χρόνῳ μαθὼν
 εἴσῃ σύ τ' αὐτὸς χοῖ¹ ξυνέμποροι σέθεν.
 940 ταύτας δ' ἐκούσας μὲν κατ' εὐνοϊαν φρενῶν
 ἄγοις ἄν, εἴπερ εὐσεβῆς πίθοι λόγος.²
 τοια δέ³ δημόπρακτος ἐκ πόλεως μία
 ψήφος κέκρανται, μήποτ' ἐκδοῦναι βία
 στόλον γυναικῶν· τῶνδ' ἐφήλωται τορῶς⁴
 945 γόμφος διαμπάξ, ὥς μένειν ἀραρότως.
 ταῦτ' οὐ πίναξίν ἐστιν ἐγγεγραμμένα
 οὐδ' ἐν πτυχαῖς βίβλων κατεσφραγισμένα,
 σαφῇ δ' ἀκούεις ἕξ ἐλευθεροστόμου
 γλώσσης. κομίζου δ' ὥς τάχιστ' ἕξ ὀμμάτων.

<ΚΗΡΤΞ>

- 950 ἔοιγμεν ἤδη πόλεμον ἀρεῖσθαι⁵ νέον.
 εἴη δὲ νίκη καὶ κράτη τοῖς ἀρσεσιν.

<ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ>

- ἀλλ' ἄρσενάς τοι τῆσδε γῆς οἰκήτορας
 εὐρήσεται οὐ πίνοντας ἐκ κριθῶν μέθυ.
 ὑμεῖς δὲ πᾶσαι σὺν φίλαις⁶ ὁπάοσι
 955 θράσος λαβοῦσαι στείχεται εὐερκῇ πόλιν,
 πύργων βαθεῖα μηχανῇ κεκλημένην.⁷
 καὶ δώματ' ἐστὶ πολλὰ μὲν τὰ δῆμια,
 δεδομάτωμαι δ' οὐδ' ἐγὼ σμικρᾷ χερσί.
 ἔνθ' ὑμῖν⁸ ἐστὶν εὐτύκους⁹ ναίειν δόμους¹⁰

¹ εἰσθιγαντος χοῖ M, ἴσως γ' αὐτὸς χ' οἱ m marg. : Bothe.

² λόγοις : Turn. ³ τοιαδε : Pauw.

⁴ τῶνδε φιλωται τορῶ : Turn.

⁵ ἴσθιμεν τάδ' ἤδη . . . ἐρεῖσθε (changed from ἐρίσθε) M : Cobet. ⁶ φίλοις : Schütz.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

[KING]

My name? What need is there that I declare it to thee? In due course of time thou shalt learn it, thou and thy mates. As for these maids, if, convinced by god-fearing argument, they consent of their own free will and heartily, thou mayest take them. But to this purpose hath been passed a decree by the unanimous resolve of the people of the State, never, under compulsion, to surrender this company of women; through this their resolve the rivet has been driven clean, to remain fixed and fast. Not on tablets is this inscribed, nor hath it been sealed in folds of books: thou hearest the truth from free-spoken lips. Now get thee instantly from my sight!

[HERALD]

We are like, methinks, to involve ourselves anon in a new war. But may victory and authority rest with the men!

[KING]

Nay, 'tis *men*, I trow, you will find, in the dwellers of this land; and that no drinkers of barley-bree. [*Exit Herald.*] But do ye take courage, all of you, and in company with your handmaidens, proceed to our well-fenced town, kept fast with bastions of deeply-planned device. As for places wherein to lodge, there are plenty of public sort (and in no mean scale am I housed myself), where, in company with many others, ye may occupy abodes suitably pre-

⁷ κεκλημένην with ι over the first η M: Herm.

⁸ εὐθυμείν: Kirchhoff. ⁹ ἐντυχούση: Porson.

¹⁰ δόμοις: Turn.

- 960 πολλῶν μετ' ἄλλων· εἰ δέ τις μείζων χάρις,
 πάρεστιν οἰκεῖν καὶ μονορρυθμοὺς¹ δόμους.
 τούτων τὰ λῶστα καὶ τὰ θυμηδέστατα
 πάρεστι, λωτίσασθε.² προστάτης δ' ἐγὼ
 965 ἄστοί τε πάντες, ὥνπερ ἦδε κραίνεται
 ψήφος. τί τῶνδε κυριωτέρους μένεις;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- ἀλλ' ἀντ' ἀγαθῶν³ ἀγαθοῖσι βρύοις,
 διε Πελασγῶν.
 πέμψον δὲ πρόφρων δεῦρ' ἡμέτερον
 πατέρ' εὐθαρσῇ Δαναόν, πρόνοον
 970 καὶ βούλαρχον. τοῦ γὰρ προτέρα
 μῆτις, ὅπου χρὴ δώματα ναίειν
 καὶ τόπος εὐφρων. πᾶς τις ἐπειπεῖν
 ψόγον ἄλλοθρόοις
 εὐτυχος.⁴ εὔη δὲ τὰ λῶστα.
 975 σὺν τ' εὐκλείᾳ καὶ ἀμηνίτῳ
 βάξει λαῶν ἐγχώρων⁵

τάσσεσθε, φίλαι δμῳίδες, οὕτως
 ὥς ἐφ' ἐκάστη διεκλήρωσεν
 Δαναὸς θεραποντίδα φερνήν.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

- 980 ὦ παῖδες, Ἀργείοισιν εὐχεσθαι χρεῶν,
 θύειν τε λείβειν θ', ὥς θεοῖς Ὀλυμπίοις,
 σπονδάς, ἐπεὶ σωτήρες οὐ διχορρόπως.
 καί μου τὰ μὲν πραχθέντα πρὸς τοὺς ἐγγενεῖς⁶
 φίλους⁷ πικρῶς ἤκουσαν αὐτανεψίους.⁸

¹ μονορρυθμοὺς M, μονορρυθμούς E.

² λωτίσασθαι: Canter. ³ ἀγαθοῖς: Porson.

⁴ εὐτυχτος made from εὐ τύκτος M: Spanheim.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

pared ; or, if it like you better, it is free for you also to make your home in dwellings of separate sort. Of these select what is best and most to your desires. A protector ye have in me and in all the burghers, whose resolve this is that now takes effect. Why wait for others of higher authority ?

CHORUS

In blessings mayest thou abound, noble Pelasgian, in requital for thy blessings ! But, if it please thee, send hither our brave father Danaüs to be our adviser and leader of our counsels. For it befits him, rather than ourselves, to advise us where we should make our abode and what neighbourhood is friendly. All the world is ready to cast reproach on those who speak a foreign tongue. But may all be for the best ! *[Exit the King.]* And do ye, dear handmaidens, preserving your fair fame and provoking no angry utterances on the part of the native folk, take up your stations even as Danaüs has allotted her duty of attendance unto each.

[Enter Danaüs with a bodyguard]

DANAÛS

My children, it is meet to offer prayers unto the Argives and to sacrifice and pour libations unto them as to Olympian gods ; for they are our saviours in no doubtful wise. The conduct of your cousins toward their own kinsfolk they heard from my lips, and were moved to bitterness against them ; but

⁵ ἐγγύρῳ : Tucker.

⁶ ἐκτενέϊς : Heath.

⁷ φίλου M (with *ws* over *ou*), E, φίλους G.

⁸ ἀνταπεψίλους : Scaliger.

- 985 ἐμοὶ δ' ¹ ὀπαδοὺς τούσδε καὶ δορυσσόους
ἔταξαν, ὡς ἔχοιμι τίμιον γέρας,
καὶ μὴ ᾽ξ ἀέλπτων ² δορικανεῖ μόρω ³ θανῶν
λάθοιμι, χώρα δ' ἄχθος αἰέζων πέλοι.
τοιῶνδε τυγχάνοντας ἐκ πρυμνῆς ⁴ φρενὸς
990 χάριν σέβεσθαι τιμιωτέραν χρεῶν. ⁵
καὶ ταῦθ' ἅμ' ἐγγράψασθε ⁶ πρὸς γεγραμμένοις
πολλοῖσιν ἄλλοις σωφρονίσμασιν πατρός,
ἀγνώθ' ὅμιλον ἐξελέγγχεσθαι ⁸ χρόνῳ.
πᾶς δ' ἐν μετοίκῳ γλώσσαν εὐτυκον ⁹ φέρει
995 κακὴν, τό τ' εἰπεῖν εὐπετές μύσαγμα πῶς.
ὕμᾱς δ' ἐπαινῶ μὴ καταισχύνειν ἐμέ,
ᾠραν ἐχούσας τήνδ' ἐπίστρεπτον βροτοῖς.
τέρειν' ὀπώρα δ' εὐφύλακτος οὐδαμῶς·
θῆρες δὲ κηραίνουσι καὶ βροτοί, τί μὴν;
1000 καὶ κνώδαλα πτεροῦντα καὶ πεδοστιβῆ. ¹⁰
ἔκαρπώματα στάζοντα κηρύσσει Κύπρις
καλωρα κωλύουσιν θωσμένειν ¹¹ ἔρῳ,†
καὶ παρθένων χλιδαῖσιν εὐμόρφοις ἐπι
πᾶς τις παρελθὼν ὀμματος θελκτήριον
1005 τόξευμ' ἔπεμψεν, ἡμέρου νικώμενος.
πρὸς ταῦτα μὴ πάθωμεν ὦν πολλὸς πόνος
πολὺς δὲ πόντος οὐνεκ' ἡρόθη ¹² δορί,
μηδ' αἰσχος ἡμῖν, ἡδονὴν δ' ἐχθροῖς ἐμοῖς
πράξωμεν. οἴκησις ¹³ δὲ καὶ διπλὴ πάρα·
1010 τὴν μὲν Πελασγός, τὴν δὲ καὶ πόλις διδοί,
οἰκεῖν λάτρων ¹⁴ ἄτερθεν· εὐπετῇ τάδε.
μόνον φύλαξαι ¹⁵ τᾶσδ' ἐπιστολὰς πατρός,
τὸ σωφρονεῖν τιμῶσα τοῦ βίου πλέον.

¹ ἐμοὺς with s changed to δ M., ἐμοὶ δ' G: Stanley.

² μήτ' ἀέλπτως: Paley.

³ δόρυκ' ἀνημέρω: Porson.

⁴ εὐπρυμνή: Sidgwick.

⁵ ἐμοῦ: χρεῶν Heimsoeth.

⁶ ταῦτα μὲν γράψασθε: Herm.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

to me they assigned this escort of spearmen, that I might have rank and honour, and might not be waylaid at unawares and perish by the death of the spear, and so an ever-living burthen come upon the land. Recipients of such boons as these, it becomes us to hold gratitude in yet higher honour in the bottom of our soul. And in addition to the many other sage injunctions of your sire recorded in your memory, do ye inscribe this withal—that an unknown company is proved by time. For in an alien's case, all the world bears an evil tongue in readiness, and it is easy lightly to utter slander that defiles. Wherefore I would have ye bring no shame upon me, now when your youthful loveliness attracts men's gaze. The tender ripeness of summer fruit is in no wise easy to protect; beasts despoil it—and men, why not?—and brutes that fly and those that walk the earth. Love's goddess makes bruit abroad of fruit bursting ripe. . . . So all men, as they pass, mastered by desire, shoot an alluring arrow of the eye at the delicate beauty of virgins. See to it, therefore, that we suffer not that in fear whereof we have endured great toil and ploughed the great waters with our barque; and that we bring no shame to ourselves and exultation to our enemies. Habitation of double sort is at our disposition—the one Pelasgus offers, the other, the city—and to occupy free of cost. These terms are easy. Only pay heed to these behests of your father, and count your chastity more precious than your life.

⁷ προσγεγραμμένους M: Rob.

⁸ ὡς ἐλέγχεσθαι: Heimsoeth.

⁹ εὐτυχον: Spanheim.

¹⁰ παιδοστιβή M: Rob.

¹¹ θωσμένην with εἰ over η M.

¹² οὖν ἐκληρώθη: Heath.

¹³ οἰκήσεις: Rob.

¹⁴ λατρῶν: from Hesych., Herm.

¹⁵ φυλάξαι: Vict.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1015 τ' ἄλλ' εὐτυχοῖμεν πρὸς θεῶν Ὀλυμπίων·
ἐμῆς δ' ὁπώρας οὐνεκ' εὖ θάρσει, πάτερ.
εἰ γάρ τι μὴ θεοῖς βεβούλευται νέον,
ἵχνος τὸ πρόσθεν οὐ διαστρέψω φρενός.

ΧΟΡΟΣ <ΔΑΝΑΙΔΩΝ>

ἴτε μὰν ἀστυάνακτας [στρ. α.
μάκαρας¹ θεοὺς γανάντες² πολιούχους
1020 τε καὶ οἳ χεῦμ' Ἑρασίνου
περιναίουσιν³ παλαιόν.
ὑποδέξασθε <δ' >⁴ ὁπαδοί
μέλος⁵ αἶνος⁶ δὲ πόλιν τήνδε Πελασγῶν
ἐχέτω, μηδ' ἔτι Νείλου
1025 προχοὰς⁷ σέβωμεν ὕμνοις·

ποταμοὺς δ' οἳ διὰ χώρας [ἀντ. α.
θελεμόν⁸ πῶμα χέουσιν πολύτεκνοι,
λιπαροῖς χεύμασι γαίας
τόδε μειλίσσουντες⁹ οὐδας.
1030 ἐπίδοι δ' Ἄρτεμις ἀγνὰ
στόλον οἰκτιζομένα, μηδ' ὑπ' ἀνάγκας
γάμος ἔλθοι¹⁰ Κυθερείας·
στυγίων¹¹ πέλοι τόδ' ἄθλον.

<ΧΟΡΟΣ ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΩΝ>¹²

Κύπριδος <δ' >¹³ οὐκ ἀμελεῖ θεσμός ὃδ' εὐφρων. [στρ. β.
1035 δύνναι γὰρ Διὸς ἀγχιστα σὺν Ἥρᾳ·

¹ μακρας: Stanley.

³ περιναίετε: Heath, Markscheffel.

² γανάντες: Pauw.

⁴ <δ' > Heath.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

CHORUS

May the Olympian gods grant us good fortune in all the rest! But, touching the bloom of my virginity, father, be of good cheer, for, unless some evil hath been devised of Heaven, I will not swerve from the former pathway of my thoughts.

CHORUS [OF THE DANAÏDS]

Come now away, glorifying the blessed gods, lords of the city, both those that guard the town and those that dwell about Erasinus' ancient stream. And do ye handmaidens take up the strain. Let the theme of our praise be this city of the Pelasgians, and no longer let the homage of our hymns be paid to Nile's floods where they seek the sea;

But to the rivers that through the land pour their gentle draught and give increase of children, with their fertilizing streams soothing its soil.

May pure Artemis look upon this band in compassion, and may wedlock never come through constraint of Cytherea. That prize be mine enemies'!

[CHORUS OF HANDMAIDENS]

Yet there is no disdain of Cypris in this our friendly hymn; for she, together with Hera, hath

⁵ μένος: Legrand. ⁶ αἶνός M: Rob. ⁷ πρὸς χοῶς M: Rob.

⁸ θελεμὸν MGE, θαλερόν P.

⁹ μελίσσοντες: Pauw.

¹⁰ ἔλθει ME, ἔλθοι P.

¹¹ στύγειον: Wecklein.

¹² The distribution of parts, undifferentiated in M, is Kirchhoff's for vv. 1034-1051, G. W. Schneider's for 1052-1061 (sung by the leaders of the two choruses), Boeckh's for 1062-1073.

¹³ <δ'> Pauw.

τίεται δ' αἰολόμητις
θεὸς ἔργοις ἐπὶ σεμνοῖς.
μετάκουνι δὲ¹ φίλα ματρὶ πάρεισιν
Πόθος <ᾗ>² τ' οὐδέν ἄπαρνον
1040 τελέθει θέλκτορι³ Πειθοῖ.⁴
δέδοται δ' Ἀρμονία μοῖρ' Ἀφροδίτας
ψεδυρᾶ⁵ τρίβῳ⁶ τ' Ἐρώτων.

[ἀντ. β.

φυγάδεσσιν δ'⁷ ἐπιπνοίας⁸ κακά τ' ἄλγη
πολέμους θ' αἱματοέντας προφοβοῦμαι.
1045 τί ποτ' εὐπλοῖαν ἔπραξαν
ταχυπόμποισι διωγμοῖς;
ὃ τί τοι μόρσιμόν ἐστιν, τὸ γένοιτ' ἄν.
Διὸς οὐ παρβατός⁹ ἐστιν
μεγάλα φρὴν ἀπέρατος·
1050 μετὰ πολλῶν δὲ γάμων ἄδε τελευτὰ
προτερᾶν¹⁰ πέλοι γυναικῶν.

<ΔΑΝΑΙΣ>

ὃ μέγας Ζεὺς ἀπαλέξαι
γάμον Αἰγυπτογενῆ μοι.

[στρ. γ.

<ΘΕΡΑΠΙΑΝΑ>

τὸ μὲν ἄν βέλτατον εἴη·

<ΔΑΝΑΙΣ>

1055 σὺ δὲ θέλγοις ἄν ἄθελκτον.¹¹

<ΘΕΡΑΠΙΑΝΑ>

σὺ δέ γ' οὐκ οἶσθα τὸ μέλλον.

¹ δ' ai MGE, δὲ P.

³ θεακτορι: Bothe.

² <ᾗ> Wellauer.

⁴ πειθοῖ ME, πειθοῖ P.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

power most near to Zeus, and for her august rites the goddess of varied wiles is held in honour.

And in the train of their mother are Desire and she to whom nothing is denied, even winning Persuasion; and to Harmonia hath been given a share of Aphrodite, and to the whispering dalliances of the Loves.

But for the fugitives I have boding fears of blasts of harm and cruel distress and bloody wars. What boots it that they voyaged so fair when pursuit followed fast upon their track?

Whatsoe'er is fated, that will come to pass. The mighty, untrammelled will of Zeus cannot be transgressed. Marriage be our destiny, as it hath been that of many women ere our time.

[A DANAÏD]

May mighty Zeus defend me from marriage with Aegyptus' race!

[A HANDMAIDEN]

That would indeed be best.

[A DANAÏD]

But thou wouldst move the immovable.

[A HANDMAIDEN]

Aye, and thou dost not know what the future hath in store.

⁵ ψευδύρα with θ over δ M: Klausen. ⁶ τρίβοι: Klausen.

⁷ φυγάδες δ': Burges.

⁸ ἐπιπνοία ME: Turn.

⁹ παραβάτας: Askew.

¹⁰ προτέραν: Bothe.

¹¹ θέλγεις ἀνάθελκτον: Stephanus.

<ΔΑΝΑΙΣ>

τί δὲ μέλλω φρένα Δίαν
καθορᾶν, ὅσιν ἄβυσσον;

[ἀντ. γ.]

<ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ>

μέτριον νῦν ἔπος εὖχου·

<ΔΑΝΑΙΣ>

1060 τίνα καιρόν με διδάσκεις;

<ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ>

τὰ θεῶν μηδὲν ἀγάζειν.

<ΧΟΡΟΣ>

Zeὺς¹ ἄναξ ἀποστεροί-
η γάμον² δυσάνορα
δαίον, ὅσπερ Ἴω
1065 πημονᾶς ἐλύσατ' εὖ
χειρὶ παιωνία κατασχεθῶν,
εὐμενῇ βίαν³ κτίσας.

[στρ. δ.]

καὶ κράτος νέμοι γυναι-
ξίν· τὸ βέλτερον κακοῦ
1070 καὶ τὸ⁴ δίμοιρον αἰνῶ,
καὶ δίκαι⁵ δίκας ἔπε-
σθαι, ξὺν εὐχαῖς ἐμαῖς, λυτηρίοις
μαχαναῖς θεοῦ πάρα.

[ἀντ. δ.]

¹ ζεῦ: Rob.

³ εὐμενεῖ βίαι: Valckenaer.

² γάμον MGE, γάμον P.

⁴ καὶ τε: schol. M, Rob.

⁵ δίκαι: Heath.

THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS

[A DANAÏD]

How should I scan the mind of Zeus, a sight unfathomable?

[A HANDMAIDEN]

Let the words of thy prayer be moderate.

[A DANAÏD]

What due measure is this that thou wouldst teach me?

[A HANDMAIDEN]

In things of Heaven ask not too much.

[CHORUS OF DANAÏDS AND HANDMAIDENS]

May sovereign Zeus withhold from me cruel wedlock with a man I hate, that very Zeus who mercifully wrought for Io deliverance from pain, restoring her with healing hand by kindly constraint.

And may he award victory to the women! I am content with that which is better than evil, even two parts of good blent with one of bad; content that, through means of deliverance vouchsafed of Heaven, conflicting rights, in accordance with my prayers, should attend the course of justice.

[*Exeunt omnes*]

THE PERSIANS

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ ΔΑΡΕΙΟΥ

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

ATOSSA, Queen Mother

XERXES

GHOST of Darius

A MESSENGER

CHORUS of Persian Elders

SCENE.—Susa, the residence of the Persian kings.
The action is conceived as taking place near an
ancient council hall, later at the tomb of Darius.

TIME.—480 B.C., not long after the battle of Salamis.

DATE.—472 B.C., at the City Dionysia.

ARGUMENT

At the head of a mighty host gathered from the innumerable nations of his empire, Xerxes, the youthful and impetuous King of Persia, has gone forth to conquer all Greece and especially to take vengeance on Athens, at whose hands his father Darius had suffered cruel defeat at Marathon. The regents, appointed by the king on his departure, disturbed by the absence of all tidings from their army, convene (by a transparent fiction) to take counsel in solemn session as to the fortunes of their long absent lord. To them the Queen Mother resorts desiring their interpretation of a vision of the night portending disaster to her son. Urged by the Elders to make supplication to the gods and propitiate Earth and the spirits of the dead with offerings that they may ward off the evil aspect of her dream, she delays her departure to inquire of them what manner of men Athens can oppose to the forces of Persia. Scarce has she heard of their prowess than there enters in hot haste a Courier bringing the full story of the annihilation of the Persian fleet at Salamis and of the sufferings of a portion of the army on its homeward march.

The sacrifices she had designed for another purpose Atossa now performs at the tomb of her husband Darius, whose spirit, waked by the incantations of the Chorus, deprecates all further attempts at invading Greece, prophesies the defeat of the Persians at Plataea because of their insolence and sacrilege, and ascribes to infatuate folly the ruin of Xerxes, whose distressful appearance at the end of the play visibly signalizes the utter downfall of his presumptuous pride.

ΠΕΡΣΑΙ

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- Τάδε μὲν Περσῶν τῶν οἰχομένων
Ἑλλάδ' ἐς αἶαν πιστὰ¹ καλεῖται,
καὶ τῶν ἀφνεῶν καὶ πολυχρύσων
ἐδράνων φύλακες, κατὰ πρεσβείαν
5 οὗς αὐτὸς ἀναξ Ξέρξης βασιλεὺς
Δαρειογενὴς²
εἴλετο χώρας ἐφορεύειν.
ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστῳ τῷ βασιλείῳ
καὶ πολυχρύσου στρατιᾶς³ ἥδη
10 κακόμεντις ἄγαν ὀρσολοπεῖται⁴
θυμὸς ἔσωθεν.
πᾶσα γὰρ ἰσχὺς Ἀσιατογενὴς
ᾤχθηκε,⁵ νέον δ' ἄνδρα βαῦζει,
κοῦτε τις ἄγγελος οὔτε τις ἵππευς
15 ἄστὺ τὸ Περσῶν ἀφικνεῖται·
οὔτε τὸ Σούσων ἥδ' Ἀγβατάνων⁶
καὶ τὸ παλαιὸν Κίσιον⁷ ἔρκος
προλιπόντες ἔβαν, τοὶ μὲν ἐφ' ἵππων.
τοὶ⁸ δ' ἐπὶ ναῶν,⁹ πεζοὶ τε βάδην
20 πολέμου στίφος παρέχοντες·

¹ πιστὰ M, πιστὰ G.

² δαρειογενὴς· δαρείου υἱὸς M, δαρειογενὴς FK.

THE PERSIANS

[Enter a band of Elders, guardians of the Persian Empire]

CHORUS

Behold this our band, called the Trusty Council of the Persians who have departed to the land of Hellas, and warders of the royal abode, rich in plenteous store of gold, whom Xerxes, our King, Darius' princely son, did himself select, by virtue of our rank and years, to be the guardians of his realm.

But touching the return of our King and of his host richly arrayed in gold, my soul within my breast, all too sorely disquieted, even now presageth disaster. For the whole force of Asia's sons hath fared forth and murmurs against its youthful King. Nor courier nor horseman arrives at the city of the Persians, who left behind them the walled defence of Susa and Agbatana and Cissa's ancient ramparts, and went forth, some on steeds, some in galleys, others on foot, with measured march presenting a dense array of war.

³ πολυχρύσους στρατιᾶς M, πολυχρύσου στρατιᾶς recc.

⁴ ὀρσοπολεῖται M, ὀρσοπολεῖται recc.

⁵ ὄχῳκε M, ὄχῳκε recc. ⁶ ἐκβατάνων : Brunck.

⁷ κίσσιον M, κίσσιον H¹ : Blomfield.

⁸ οἱ : Blomfield.

⁹ νηῶν M, ναῶν LFR, etc.

οἷος Ἀμίστρης ἥδ' Ἀρταφρένης¹
καὶ Μεγαβάτης² ἥδ' Ἀστάσπης,
ταγοὶ Περσῶν,
25 βασιλῆς βασιλέως ὑποχοὶ μεγάλου,
σοῦνται, στρατιᾶς πολλῆς ἔφοροι,
τοξοδάμαντές τ' ἥδ' ἵπποβάται,
φοβεροὶ μὲν ἰδεῖν, δεινοὶ δὲ μάχην
ψυχῆς εὐτλήμονι³ δόξῃ.
Ἀρτεμβάρης θ' ἵππιοχάρμης
30 καὶ Μασίστρης,⁴ ὃ τε τοξοδάμας
ἔσθλος Ἰμαῖος, Φαρανδάκης θ',
ἵππων τ' ἐλατῆρ Σοσθάνης.
ἄλλους δ' ὁ μέγας καὶ πολυθρέμμων
Νεῖλος ἔπεμψεν· Σουσιस्कάνης,
35 Πηγασταγῶν Αἰγυπτογενῆς,
ὃ τε τῆς ἱερᾶς Μέμφιδος ἄρχων
μέγας Ἀρσάμης, τὰς τ' ὠγγύους
Θήβας ἐφέπων Ἀριόμαρδος,
καὶ ἐλειοβάται ναῶν ἐρέται
40 δεινοὶ πλήθός τ' ἀνάριθμοι.
ἀβροδιαίτων δ' ἔπεται Λυδῶν
ὄχλος, οἳ τ' ἐπίπαν ἡπειρογενὲς
κατέχουσιν ἔθνος, τοὺς Μητρογαθῆς⁵
Ἀρκτεὺς τ' ἀγαθός, βασιλῆς δίοποι,
45 καὶ πολύχρυσοι Σάρδεις ἐπόχους
πολλοῖς ἄρμασιν ἐξορμῶσιν,
δίρρυμά τε καὶ τρίρρυμα⁶ τέλη,
φοβερὰν ὄψιν προσιδέσθαι.
στεῦται⁷ δ' ἱεροῦ Τμώλου πελάται

¹ ἀρταφρένης M recc., ἀρταφρένης m.

² μεταβάτης M, μεγαβάτης recc., μεγαβάτης recc.

³ ἐν τλήμονι M, εὐτλήμονι recc.

THE PERSIANS

Such were Amistres and Artaphrenes and Megabates and Astaspes, marshals of the Persians; kings themselves, yet vassals of the Great King, they press on, commanders of a vast host, skilled to manage bow and steed, formidable of aspect and terrible in battle through the valiant resolve of their souls. Artembares, too, who battles from his chariot, and Masistres, and goodly Imaeus, skilled with the bow, and Pharandaces, and Sosthanes, who urges on his steeds. Others still the mighty, fecund Nile sent forth—Susiscanes, Pegastagon of Egyptian lineage, mighty Arsames, lord of sacred Memphis, Ariomardus, governor of world-old Thebes, and the rangers of the fens, rowers of ships, well-skilled, and in multitude past all numbering.

In their train follows a throng of luxurious Lydians, and those¹ who hold in subjection all the people of the mainland, whom Metrogathes and brave Arcteus, their kingly commanders, and Sardis rich in gold sped forth, riding in many a chariot, in ranks with three and four steeds abreast, a spectacle terrible to behold. They too that dwell by sacred Tmolus pledge themselves to cast the yoke

¹ A covert reference to the Ionians, kinsmen of the Athenians, who served under compulsion in the expedition against Greece.

⁴ *μασίστρης* MSS., *μασίστρης* Herod. vii. 82.

⁵ *μητρογάθης* M, *μητρογάθης* QL.

⁶ *τρίρρυμα* M, *τρίρρυμα* recce.

⁷ *στεύνται* M (with *ν* marked to be deleted) etc.

50 ζυγὸν ἀμφιβαλεῖν δούλιον¹ Ἑλλάδι,
Μάρδων, Θάρυβις, λόγχης ἄκμονες,
καὶ ἀκοντισταὶ Μυσοί· Βαβυλῶν δ'
ἢ πολύχρυσος πάμμικτον ὄχλον
πέμπει σύρδην, ναῶν τ' ἐπόχους
55 καὶ τοξουλκῷ λήματι πιστούς·
τὸ μαχαιροφόρον τ' ἔθνος ἐκ πάσης
Ἀσίας ἔπεται

δειναῖς βασιλέως ὑπὸ πομπαῖς.
τιόνδ' ἄνθος Περσίδος αἶας
οὔχεται ἀνδρῶν,
60 οὓς πέρι πᾶσα χθὼν Ἀσιήτης
θρέψασα πόθῳ στένεται μαλερῷ,
τοκέες τ' ἄλοχοί θ' ἡμερολεγδόν
τείνοντα χρόνον τρομέονται.

65 πεπέρακεν² μὲν ὁ περσέπτολις ἤδη [στρ. α.
βασίλειος στρατὸς εἰς ἀν-
τίπορον γείτονα χώραν,
λινοδέσμῳ σχεδία πορθ-
μὸν ἀμείψας

70 Ἀθαμαντίδος Ἑλλας,
πολύγομφον ὄδισμα
ζυγὸν ἀμφιβαλὼν αὐχένι πόντου.

πολυάνδρου δ' Ἀσίας θούριος ἄρχων [ἀντ. α.
ἐπὶ πᾶσαν χθόνα ποιμα-
νόριον θεῖον ἐλαύνει
75 διχόθεν, πεζονόμον³ τ' ἔκ
τε θαλάσσας,

ἐχυροῖσι⁴ πεποιθὼς
στυφέλοῖς ἐφέταις, χρυ-
80 σογόνου⁵ γενεᾶς ἰσόθεος⁶ φῶς.

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of slavery upon Hellas—Mardon, Tharybis, anvils of the lance, and the Mysians, hurlers of the javelin. Babylon, also, teeming with gold, sends a mingled host in sweeping train, both mariners borne in galleys and bowmen reliant on their courage. The folk that wields the scimitar follows from every part of Asia at the dread mandates of the King.

Such are the warriors, the flower of the Persian land, that are departed, and in ardent longing for them the whole land of Asia, their foster-nurse, laments; while parents and wives, as they count the days, shudder at the lengthening delay.

The royal armament, dealing destruction to cities, hath ere now passed to the neighbouring land upon the adverse shore, having crossed the firth of Helle, daughter of Athamas, on a bridge of boats made fast by cables, by casting a stout-clamped roadway as a yoke upon the neck of the deep.

The impetuous lord of populous Asia is driving his wondrous warrior-flock against the whole earth in twofold armament, on foot and by the sea, resting his confidence in his stalwart and stern commanders; he himself, the peer of the gods, a hero whose race is sprung from gold.¹

¹ The hero Perseus, here regarded as the ancestor of Xerxes, and in l. 146 as giving his name to the whole Persian race, was the son of Zeus, who descended to Danaë in a shower of gold.

¹ δούλειον : Scaliger.

² πεπέρακε : Porson.

³ πεξονόμοις εκ : Stadtmüller.

⁴ έχυροίσι with ο over ε M.

⁵ χρυσονόμου M recc., χρυσογόνου schol. M recc.

⁶ ισόθεον M, ισόθεος recc.

- κύνεον δ' ὄμμασι λεύσσω
 φονίου¹ δέργμα² δράκοντος,
 πολύχειρ καὶ πολυναύτας,³
 Σύριόν θ' ἄρμα διώκων,
 85 ἐπάγει δουρικλύτοις ἀν-
 δράσι τοξόδαμνον Ἄρη.
- δόκιμος δ' οὔτις ὑποστάς
 μεγάλῳ ῥεύματι φωτῶν
 ἐχυροῖς ἔρκεσιν εἶργειν
 90 ἄμαχον κύμα θαλάσσης·
 ἀπρόσοιστος γὰρ ὁ Περσῶν⁴
 στρατὸς ἀλκίφρων τε λαός.
- ἤθεόθεν γὰρ κατὰ Μοῖρ'
 ἐκράτησεν τὸ παλαι-
 95 όν, ἐπέσκηψε δὲ Πέρσαις
 πολέμους πυργοδαΐκτους
 105 διέπειν ἵππιοχάρμας
 τε κλόνους
 πόλεων τ'⁵ ἀναστάσεις.
- ἔμαθον δ' εὐρυπόροι-
 100 ο θαλάσσης⁷ πολίαι-
 110 νομένας πνεύματι λάβρῳ
 ἐσορᾶν πόντιον ἄλσος,
 105 πίσυννοι λεπτοδόμοις πεί-
 σμασι λα-
 οπόροις τε μαχαναῖς.
- δολόμητιν δ' ἀπάταν θεοῦ
 τίς ἀνὴρ θνατὸς ἀλύξει;
 95 τίς ὁ κραιπνῷ ποδὶ πήδη-
 110 μα⁸ τόδ' εὐπετώσ⁹ ἀνάσσω¹⁰;
 116

[στρ. β.

[ἀντ. β.

[στρ. γ.

[ἀντ . γ

[στρ. δ.

THE PERSIANS

Flashing from his eyes the dark glare of a deadly dragon, attended by many a soldier-band and many a mariner, and speeding his Syrian car, he leadeth against a people renowned for the spear a warlike archer host.

But none there is so proved in prowess as can make stand against a mighty flood of men and by strong barriers stem the resistless billows of the main; for Persia's host is not to be withstood and valiant of heart are her men.

For by the will of the gods Fate hath held sway since ancient days, and hath enjoined upon the Persians the pursuit of war that levels ramparts low, the mellay of embattled steeds, and the storming of cities.

And they have learned to look upon the domain of the deep when the broad-wayed sea whiteneth to foam beneath the tempest's blast, trusting in their finely wrought cables, and their devices to give passage to their host.

Yet the insidious guile of God—what mortal man shall escape it? Who with agile foot can lightly leap from out its toils?

¹ φοινίου M, φοίνιου FN.

² πολυναύτης M, πολυναύτας recc.

³ δέρμα M, δέργμα recc.

⁴ περσῶν : Blomfield.

⁵ ll. 93-106 transposed to precede 107-114 : O. Müller.

⁶ δ' M, τ' recc.

⁷ θαλάσσης M, θαλάσσας recc.

⁸ πηδήματος : Emper.

⁹ εὐπετέος M, etc., εὐπετέως Mosc. Paris. 2886 : Emper.

¹⁰ ἀνάσσω : Brunck.

- φιλόφρων γὰρ παρασαίνει¹ [ἀντ. δ.
βροτὸν εἰς ἄρκυας Ἄτα,²
τόθεν οὐκ ἔστιν ὑπερθέν
100 νιν ἄνατον ἐξαλύξαι.³
- 115 ταῦτά μοι⁴ μελαγχίτων [στρ. ε.
φρὴν ἀμύσσειται φόβῳ,
δᾶ, Περσικοῦ στρατεύματος
τοῦδε, μὴ πόλις πύθη-
ται κένανδρον μέγ' ἄστν Σουσίδος,
- 120 καὶ τὸ Κισσίων πόλισμ' [ἀντ. ε.
ἀντίδουπον ἔσεται,⁵
δᾶ, τοῦτ' ἔπος γυναικοπλη-
θῆς ὄμιλος ἀπύων,
125 βυσσίοις δ' ἐν πέπλοις πέση λακίς.⁶
- πᾶς γὰρ ἱππηλάτας [στρ. ζ.
καὶ πεδοστιβῆς λεῶς
σμῆνος ὥς ἐκλέλοιπεν μελισ-
σᾶν' σὺν ὀρχάμῳ στρατοῦ,
130 τὸν ἀμφίζευκτον ἐξαμείψας
ἀμφοτέρας ἄλιον
πρῶνα κοινὸν αἴας.
- λέκτρα δ' ἀνδρῶν πόθῳ [ἀντ. ζ.
πίμπλαται δακρύμασιν.
135 Περσίδες δ' ἀβροπενθεῖς⁸ ἐκά-
στα⁹ πόθῳ φιλάνορι
τὸν αἰχμᾶεντα θοῦρον εὐνα-
τῆρ' ἀποπεμψαμένα
λείπεται μονόζυξ.

¹ σαίνουσα τὸ πρῶτον παράγει M : Seidler.

² ἀρκύστατα : Herm.

THE PERSIANS

For Delusion, with semblance of fair intent, lureth man astray into her snares, whence it is not possible for him scatheless to escape.

Wherefore my heart is shrouded in gloom and is racked with fear (woe!) for our Persian armament, lest the State learn that the mighty capital of the Susian land is made desolate of its sons,

And lest, as bands of women cry aloud "woe," the Cissian stronghold raise a re-echoing shout responsive to the thud of hands on breast, and rending fall upon their vesture of fine linen.

For all the men-at-arms, they that urge on steeds and they that march along the plain, have left the city and gone forth, like bees in a swarm, together with the chief captain of the host; and have crossed the spur, projected into the sea and common to either continent, by which both shores are bound by a yoke.

And marriage-beds are filled with tears through longing for husbands; each Persian dame has sped forth to the field her warlike and impetuous consort, and in the tenderness of her grief and in longing for her beloved lord is left lorn of her mate.

³ ὑπὲρ θνατὸν ἀλύξαντα φυγεῖν: ὑπερθεν Rob., γιν ἀνατον ἐξαλύξαι Wecklein.

⁴ μου M., μοι recc.

⁵ ἔσεται M: Burney.

⁶ πέση λακίς added by m.

⁷ μέλισσα M., μελισσῶν many recc., μελισσᾶν F.

⁸ ἀκροπενθεῖς: schol. Paley.

⁹ ἐκάσταν changed to ἐκάσται M., ἐκάστα recc.

- 140 ἄλλ' ἄγε, Πέρσαι, τόδ' ἐνεζόμενοι
 στέγος¹ ἀρχαῖον,
 φροντίδα κεδνὴν καὶ βαθύβουλον
 θώμεθα, χρεῖα δὲ προσήκει,
 πῶς ἄρα² πράσσει Ξέρξης βασιλεὺς
 145 Δαρειογενῆς,
 τὸ πατρωνύμιον γένος ἡμέτερον·³
 πότερον τόξον ῥῦμα τὸ νικῶν,
 ἢ δορικράνου⁴
 λόγχης ἰσχὺς κεκράτηκεν.
- 150 ἄλλ' ἦδε θεῶν ἴσον ὀφθαλμοῖς
 φάος ὀρμάται μήτηρ βασιλέως,
 βασιλεία δ' ἐμὴ· προσπίτνω.⁵
 καὶ προσφθόγοις δὲ χρεῶν αὐτὴν
 πάντας μύθοισι προσανδάν.
- 155 ὦ βαθυζώνων ἄνασσα Περσίδων ὑπερτάτη,
 μήτηρ ἢ Ξέρξου γεραιά, χαῖρε, Δαρείου γύναι·
 θεοῦ μὲν ἐννάτειρα⁶ Περσῶν, θεοῦ δὲ καὶ μήτηρ ἔφους,
 εἴ τι μὴ δαίμων παλαιὸς νῦν μεθέστηκε στρατῷ.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

- ταῦτα δὴ λιποῦσ' ἰκάνω χρυσεοστόλμους δόμους
 160 καὶ τὸ Δαρείου τε κἄμὸν κοινὸν ἐννατήριον.
 κἄμῃ⁷ καρδίαν ἀμύσσει φροντίς· ἐς δ' ὑμᾶς ἐρῶ
 μῦθον, οὐδαμῶς ἐμαυτῆς οὐσ' ἀδείμαντος, φίλοι,
 μὴ μέγας πλοῦτος κονίσας⁸ οὐδας ἀντρέψῃ ποδὶ
 ὄλβον, ὃν Δαρείος ἦρεν οὐκ ἄνευ θεῶν τινος.

¹ στέος M, στέγος P.

² ἄρα M.

³ ἡμέτερον changed from ἀμέτερον M, ἡμέτερον recc.

⁴ δορικράνου M, δορικράνου PVF.

⁵ προσπίτνω προσκυνῶ M, προσπιτνῶ recc.

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But come, ye Persians, let us take our station on the steps of this olden palace and devise some sage and deeply-pondered counsel (for need thereof hath come upon us) how it then fares with Xerxes our King, Darius' son, scion of our own race as his forefather's name declares. Is it the drawing of the bow that hath triumphed, or is it the might of the spear-headed lance that hath prevailed?

[*Enter Atossa, gorgeously apparelled, on a chariot and attended by a numerous retinue*

But lo! here comes forth an effulgence like unto the eyes of the gods—the Mother of our King, my Queen. To her I make lowly obeisance. Meet is it also that we all address her in words of salutation.

[*The Elders prostrate themselves and then rise to their feet. Their leader continues*

O Queen, most exalted of Persia's deep-girdled dames, venerable mother of Xerxes, spouse of Darius, all hail! Consort wast thou of the Persians' god, and mother art thou likewise of a god, unless perchance its ancient fortune hath now forsaken our host.

ATOSSA

For this very cause I have quitted the gold-bespangled palace and the common nuptial chamber of Darius and myself, and am come hither. My heart, too, is rent with anxiety; and unto you, my friends, will I make a disclosure, being in no wise free from an apprehension prompted by my own thoughts, lest our great wealth shall, in its headlong course, have overturned the prosperity which Darius raised on high not without the favour of

⁶ εὐνήτεια M, εὐνάτεια recc.

⁷ καὶ με: Bothe.

⁸ κορίστας M, κορίσας schol. M recc.

165 ταῦτά μοι διπλῇ μέριμνα φραστός¹ ἔστιν ἐν φρεσίν,
μήτε χρημάτων ἀνάνδρων πλήθος ἐν τιμῇ σέβειν
μήτ' ἀχρημάτοισι λάμπειν φῶς ὅσον σθένος πάρα.
ἔστι γὰρ πλοῦτός γ' ἀμεμφής, ἀμφὶ δ' ὀφθαλμῶ²
φόβος·

ὄμμα γὰρ δόμων νομίζω δεσπότης παρουσίαν.
170 πρὸς τὰδ' ὥς οὕτως ἐχόντων τῶνδε, σύμβουλοι
λόγου
τοῦδέ μοι γένεσθε, Πέρσαι, γηραλέα πιστώματα·
πάντα γὰρ τὰ κέδν' ἐν ὑμῖν ἐστί μοι βουλευμάτα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

εὖ τόδ' ἴσθι, γῆς ἀνασσα τῆσδε, μή σε δις φράσαι
μήτ' ἔπος μήτ' ἔργον ὦν ἂν δύναμις³ ἡγείσθαι θέλῃ⁴.
175 εὐμενεῖς γὰρ ὄντας ἡμᾶς τῶνδε συμβούλους καλεῖς.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

πολλοῖς μὲν αἰεὶ⁵ νυκτέροις ὀνειράσιν
ξύνειμ', ἀφ' οὐπερ παῖς ἐμὸς στείλας στρατὸν
Ἰαόνων γῆν οἴχεται Πέρσαι θέλων·
ἀλλ' οὔτι πω τοιόνδ' ἐναργὲς εἰδόμην
180 ὥς τῆς πάροιθεν εὐφρόνης· λέξω δέ σοι.
ἔδοξάτην μοι δύο⁶ γυναῖκ' εὐείμονε,
ἣ μὲν πέπλοισι Περσικοῖς ἡσκημένη,
ἣ δ' αὖτε Δωρικοῖσιν, εἰς ὄψιν μολεῖν,
μεγέθει τε τῶν νῦν ἐκπρεπεστάτα πολὺ,
185 κάλλει τ' ἀμώμω, καὶ κασιγνήτα γένους
ταυτοῦ· πάτραν δ' ἔναιον ἣ μὲν Ἑλλάδα
κλήρῳ λαχοῦσα γαῖαν, ἣ δὲ βάρβαρον.

¹ μέριμν' ἀφραστος: C. G. Haupt.

² ὀφθαλμοῖς: Heimsoeth.

³ δυνάμεις M, δύναμις recc.

⁵ αἰεὶ M, αἰεὶ FN.

⁴ θέλει M, θέλη m¹.

⁶ δύο M, μοι δύο recc.

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some god. Wherefore a twofold thought has been pondered in my heart : neither to hold in honour vast wealth without men, and that the light does not shine, in proportion to their strength, on men without riches. Our wealth, at all events, is ample, but my alarm is for the light of my eyes—for the light of the house I deem to be the presence of its lord. Wherefore, since things stand in such case, lend me your counsel in this concern, ye Persians, my aged trusty servants. For all my hopes of good counsel depend on you.

CHORUS

Be well assured of this, our country's Queen, not twice hast thou to point out either word or deed, touching aught wherein our power is able to direct thee. For well affected to thy interests are we whom thou summonest as counsellors in these matters.

ATOSSA

I have been ever haunted by many a dream at night since my son, having fitted forth his armament, departed hence with intent to lay waste the land of the Ionians. But never yet have I beheld so distinct a vision as yesternight. I will describe it unto thee.

I dreamed that two women in fair vesture, one apparelled in Persian garb, the other in Dorian attire, appeared before mine eyes ; both in stature far more striking than are the women of our time, in beauty flawless, sisters of the self-same race. As for the country wherein they dwelt, to one had been assigned by lot the land of Hellas, to the other

- τούτω στάσιν τιν', ὡς ἐγὼ ὀδῶν ὄραν,
 τεύχειν ἐν ἀλλήλαισι¹· παῖς δ' ἐμὸς μαθὼν
 190 κατεῖχε κἀπράνουν, ἄρμασιν δ' ὑπο
 ζεύγνυσιν αὐτῷ καὶ λέπαδν' ἐπ' αὐχένων²
 τίθησι. χῆ μὲν τῇδ' ἐπυργούτο στολῇ
 ἐν ἡνίασι³ τ' εἶχεν εὐαρκτον στόμα,
 ἥ δ' ἐσφάδαζε, καὶ χεροῖν ἐντῇ⁴ δίφρου
 195 διασπαράσσει⁵ καὶ ξυναρπάζει βία
 ἄνευ χαλινῶν καὶ ζυγὸν θραύει μέσον.
 πίπτει δ' ἐμὸς παῖς, καὶ πατὴρ παρίσταται
 Δαρείος οἰκτεῖρων⁶ σφε· τὸν δ' ὅπως ὀρᾷ
 Ξέρξης, πέπλους ῥήγνυσιν ἀμφὶ σώματι.
 200 καὶ ταῦτα μὲν δὴ νυκτὸς εἰσιδεῖν λέγω.
 ἐπεὶ δ' ἀνέστην καὶ χεροῖν καλλιρρόου⁷
 ἔψαυσα πηγῆς, σὺν θυηπόλῳ χερὶ
 βωμὸν προσέστην, ἀποτρόποισι δαίμοσιν
 θέλουσα θῦσαι πέλανον, ὣν τέλη τάδε.
 205 ὀρῶ δὲ φεύγοντ' αἰετὸν πρὸς ἐσχάραν
 Φοίβου· φόβῳ δ' ἄφθογγος ἐστάθην, φίλοι·
 μεθύστερον⁸ δὲ κίρκον εἰσορῶ δρόμῳ
 πτεροῖς ἐφορμαίνοντα καὶ χηλαῖς κάρᾳ
 τίλλονθ'. ὁ δ' οὐδὲν ἄλλο γ' ἢ πτήξας δέμας
 210 παρείχε. ταῦτ' ἔμοιγε δείματ' εἰσιδεῖν,⁹
 ὑμῖν δ' ἀκούειν. εὖ γὰρ ἴστε, παῖς ἐμὸς
 πράξας μὲν εὖ θαυμαστός ἂν γένοιτ' ἀνὴρ,
 κακῶς δὲ πράξας, οὐχ ὑπεύθυνος πόλει,
 σωθεῖς δ' ὁμοίως τῇσδε κοιρανεῖ χθονός.

¹ ἀλλήλῃσι M, ἀλλήλαισι K¹N.

² ὑπαυχένων M, ἐπ' αὐχένων recc.

³ ἡνίαισιν M, ἡνίαισι δ' recc. : Blomfield.

⁴ ἐν τῇ : Scaliger.

⁵ διασπαράττει M, διασπαράσσει Cant. 2.

⁶ οἰκτεῖρων : Kirchhoff.

⁷ καλλιρρόου M, καλλιρρόου recc.

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that of the barbarians. The twain, to my fancy, seemed to provoke each other to a mutual feud; and my son, made aware of this, strove to restrain and soothe them, and yoked them both to his car and placed the collar-straps upon their necks. The one bore herself proudly in these trappings and kept her mouth obedient to the rein. The other struggled and with her hands rent asunder the harness of the car; then, free of the curb, dragged it violently along with her and snapped the yoke asunder. My son was hurled to the ground and his father Darius stood by his side compassionating him. But Xerxes, when he beheld him, rent his garments about his limbs.

Such, I say, was the vision I beheld in the night. But when I had risen and dipped my hands in the clear-flowing water of a spring, I drew nigh unto an altar with incense in my hand, minded to make oblation of a sacrificial cake unto the divinities that avert evil, even unto those to whom these rites are due. But I saw an eagle fleeing for safety to the altar of Phoebus—and from terror, my friends, I stood reft of speech. And thereupon I spied a falcon rushing at full speed with outstretched pinions and with his talons plucking at the eagle's head; while it did naught but cower and yield its body to his foe.

These are the terrors I beheld, and terrors are they too for you to hear. For be ye well assured, my son, if he succeed, will challenge wonder; but, if he fail, he is not answerable to the State; and safe-returned, he holds this land in sway even as before.

⁸ μεθ' ὕστερον M, μεθ' ὕστερον recc.

⁹ εἰς ἰδεῖν M, ἔστ' ἰδεῖν recc. : Hartung.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 215 οὐ σε βουλόμεσθα, μήτερ, οὐτ' ἄγαν φοβεῖν λόγους
οὔτε θαρσύνειν.¹ θεοὺς δὲ προστροπαῖς ἱκνουμένη,
εἴ τι φλαῦρον εἶδες, αἰτοῦ τῶνδ' ἀποτροπὴν τελεῖν,
τὰ δ' ἀγάθ'² ἐκτελῇ γενέσθαι σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις σέθεν
καὶ πόλει φίλοις τε πᾶσι. δεύτερον δὲ χρή χοὰς
220 Γῇ τε καὶ φθιτοῖς χέασθαι· πρευμαίνῳ δ' αἰτοῦ τάδε,
σὸν πόσιν Δαρεῖον, ὄνπερ φῆς ἰδεῖν κατ' εὐφρόνην,
ἐσθλά σοι πέμπειν τέκνῳ τε γῆς ἔνερθεν ἐς φάος,
τᾶμπαλιν δὲ τῶνδε γαῖα κάτοχα μαυροῦσθαι³ σκότῳ.
ταῦτα θυμόμαντις ὦν σοι πρευμαίνῳ παρήνεσα·
225 εὖ δὲ πανταχῇ τελεῖν σοι τῶνδε κρίνομεν πέρι.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

- ἀλλὰ μὴν εὔνους γ' ὁ πρῶτος τῶνδ' ἐνυπνίων κριτῆς
παιδὶ καὶ δόμοις ἐμοῖσι τήνδ' ἐκύρωσας φάτιν.
ἐκτελοῖτο δὴ⁴ τὰ χρηστά· ταῦτα δ', ὥς ἐφίεσαι,
πάντα θήσομεν θεοῖσι τοῖς τ' ἔνερθε γῆς φίλοις,
230 εὖτ' ἂν εἰς οἴκους μόλωμεν. κείνα δ' ἐκμαθεῖν
θέλω,
ὦ φίλοι, ποῦ τὰς Ἀθήνας φασὶν ἰδρῦσθαι χθονός.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τῇλε πρὸς δυσμαῖς ἄνακτος Ἑλίου φθινασμάτων.

¹ θαρσύνειν M, θαρσύνειν recc.

² τὰ δ' ἀγαθὰ δ' M, τὰ δ' ἀγάθ' recc.

³ κάτοχ' ἀμαροῦσθαι : Blomfield.

⁴ δὲ M recc., δὴ N.

THE PERSIANS

- CHORUS

O Mother, we would neither alarm thee unduly by our words nor yet raise thy hopes too high. But if it be aught inauspicious that thou hast seen, visit the gods with supplication and entreat them to turn aside the evil thereof, and that all good things may be fulfilled for thyself and thy children, for the realm and all thou holdest dear. Next, it is meet to offer libations unto Earth and the departed ; and in propitiatory wise beseech thy spouse Darius, whom thou declarest thou hast seen in the night, to send into the light of day from beneath the earth blessings for thee and for thy son ; and that the reverse of this may be held in durance beneath the earth and fade away in gloom. Such is the counsel I offer thee with kindly intent, guided thereto by the promptings of my judgment. In our interpretation of these portents, the issue will in all things prove prosperous unto thee.

ATOSSA

Assuredly hast thou, its first interpreter, read the import of my dream with goodwill, at least, toward my son and house. Aye, may the issue indeed prove prosperous ! All these rites, as thou dost enjoin, when I return to the palace, will I perform unto the gods and unto those dear to me beneath the earth. Meanwhile, my friends, I would fain learn in what region of the earth Athens lies according to report.

CHORUS

Far hence, where the waning fires of our Lord the Sun sink in the west.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ἀλλὰ μὴν ἔμειρ' ἐμὸς παῖς τήνδε θηρᾶσαι πόλιν;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πᾶσα γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν Ἑλλάς βασιλέως ὑπήκοος.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

235 ὦδέ τις πάρεστιν αὐτοῖς ἀνδροπλήθεια στρατοῦ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καὶ στρατὸς τοιοῦτος, ἔρξας πολλὰ δὴ Μήδους κακά.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

καὶ τί πρὸς τούτοισιν ἄλλο; πλοῦτος ἐξαρκῆς δόμοις;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀργύρου πηγή τις αὐτοῖς ἐστι, θησαυρὸς χθονός.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

πότερα γὰρ τοξουλκὸς αἰχμὴ διὰ χεροῖν¹ αὐτοῖς
πρέπει;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

240 οὐδαμῶς· ἔγχη σταδαῖα καὶ φεράσπιδες σαγαί.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

τίς δὲ ποιμάνωρ ἔπεστι κάπιδεσπόζει στρατῷ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οὐτινος δοῦλοι κέκληνται φωτὸς οὐδ' ὑπήκοοι.

¹ χερὸς : Elmsley.

THE PERSIANS

ATOSSA

Can it then really be that my son had the keen desire to make booty of this city ?

CHORUS

Aye, for then all Hellas would become submissive to the King.

ATOSSA

Has then their army such a multitude of men ?

CHORUS

Aye, even such an army that it has smitten the Medes with sore calamity.

ATOSSA

And what else have they besides ? Have they sufficient store of wealth in their homes ?

CHORUS

Of silver they possess a fountain, as it were, intrasured in their soil.

ATOSSA

Is the shaft that stretches the bow native to their hand ?

CHORUS

Nay, far from it ; they have lances for close fight and shields that serve them for armour.

ATOSSA

And who is set over them as shepherd and is master of their host ?

CHORUS

Of no man are they called the slaves or vassals.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

πῶς ἂν οὖν μένοιεν ἄνδρας πολεμίους ἐπήλυδας;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὥστε Δαρείου πολὺν τε καὶ καλὸν φθεῖραι στρατόν.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

245 δεινά τοι λέγεις ἰόντων τοῖς τεκοῦσι¹ φροντίσαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖν τάχ' εἶσῃ πάντα νημερτῇ λόγον.
τοῦδε γὰρ δράμημα φῶτος Περσικὸν πρέπει μα-
θεῖν,
καὶ φέρει σαφές τι πρᾶγος ἐσθλὸν ἢ κακὸν κλύειν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

ὦ γῆς ἀπάσης Ἀσιάδος πολίσματα,
250 ὦ Περσὶς αἶα καὶ πολὺς πλούτου λιμὴν,
ὥς ἐν μιᾷ πληγῇ κατέφθαρται πολὺς
ὄλβος, τὸ Περσῶν δ' ἄνθος οἴχεται πεσόν.
ὡμοι, κακὸν μὲν πρῶτον ἀγγέλλειν κακά·
ὅμως δ' ἀνάγκη πᾶν ἀναπτύξαι πάθος,
255 Πέρσαι· στρατὸς γὰρ πᾶς ὄλωλε βαρβάρων.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἄνι' ἄνια κακὰ
νεόκοτα καὶ δαί'. αἰαῖ,
διαίνεσθε, Πέρσαι,
τόδ' ἄχος κλύοντες.

[στρ. α.

¹ τεκοῦσαν M, τεκοῦσι recs.

THE PERSIANS

ATOSSA

How then can they abide the attack of an invading foe?

CHORUS

So well as to have destroyed Darius' great and goodly host.

ATOSSA

The fathers and mothers of those who are now on their way thither have in thy words, in sooth, dire food for thought.

CHORUS

Nay, methinks thou shalt learn anon the whole account in very truth. For yonder comes one who, it is clear to see, is a Persian courier; and he bears clear tidings of some issue, be it weal or woe.

MESSENGER

O ye cities of all the land of Asia, O realm of Persia, and bounteous haven of wealth, how at a single stroke has all your plenteous weal been shattered, and the flower of the Persians fallen and perished! Woe's me—it is an evil office to be the first to herald ill. And yet, ye Persians, I needs must unfold the whole disaster—the whole barbarian host is lost.

CHORUS

Grievous, grievous disaster, all unlooked-for and cruel. Alas, ye Persians, weep now that ye hear of this calamity.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

260 ὥς πάντα γ' ἔστ' ἐκεῖνα διαπεπραγμένα·
αὐτὸς δ' ἀέλπτως νόστιμον βλέπω φάος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἦ μακροβίοςτος [ἀντ. α.
ὅδε γέ τις αἰὼν ἐφάνθη
γεραιοῖς, ἀκούειν
265 τόδε πῆμ' ἀελπτον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

καὶ μὴν παρών γε¹ κοῦ λόγους ἄλλων κλύων,
Πέρσαι, φράσαιμ' ἄν οἱ ἐπορσύνθη κακά.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὀτοτοτοί, μάταν [στρ. β.
τὰ πολλὰ βέλεα παμμιγῇ
270 γὰς ἀπ' Ἀσίδος ἦλθε δά-
αν² ἐφ' Ἑλλάδα χώραν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

πλήθουσι νεκρῶν δυσπότμῳ ἐφθαρμένων
Σαλαμῖνος ἀκταὶ πᾶς τε πρόσχωρος τόπος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὀτοτοτοί, φίλων [ἀντ. β.
275 ἀλίδονα μέλεα³ πολυβαφῇ
καθτανόντα λέγεις φέρε-
σθαι πλάγκτ'⁴ ἐν διπλάκεσσιν.

¹ τε M, γε recc.

² ἦλθ' ἐπ' αἶαν δῖαν (δαῖαν Lambeth.) M : Wilam.

³ σώματα M, μέλεα Vind. 2.

⁴ πλαγκτοῖς : Wilam.

THE PERSIANS

MESSENGER

Aye, since now ye hear that all that armament is utterly destroyed; and I myself beyond all hope behold the day of my return.

CHORUS

Too long, in sooth, hath this our life proved to us, aged as we are, that we should hear of this unlooked-for misery.

MESSENGER

And in truth, ye Persians, since I was present on the spot and did not hear the tale from report of others, I can clearly tell what manner of disaster was wrought.

CHORUS

Alack, alack! In vain did our vast and variously armed host go forth from the land of Asia against the hostile soil of Hellas.

MESSENGER

Full of the bodies of men who perished by a wretched fate are the shores of Salamis and all the neighbouring coasts.

CHORUS

Alack, alack! Thou tellest that the bodies of our loved ones, battered by the brine, are tossing, oft submerged and lifeless, hither and thither in their mantles.¹

¹ διπλάκισσιν, if correct, refers to the Persian dress, of which Herodotus makes mention in describing the battle of Marathon (vi. 112). διπλαξ as a substantive is certain elsewhere only in Homer, who used the word in the sense of "cloak," either of double folds or of double texture.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

οὐδὲν γὰρ ἥρκει τόξα, πᾶς δ' ἀπώλλυτο
στρατὸς δαμασθεὶς ναῖοισιν ἐμβολαῖς.¹

ΧΟΡΟΣ

280 ἴνυζ' ἀποτμον Πέρσαις [στρ. γ.
δυσαιανῇ βοάν²
δάοις, ὡς πάντα παγκάκως
ἐφθισαν³. αἰαὶ στρατοῦ φθαρέντος.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

285 ὦ πλείστον ἔχθος ὄνομα Σαλαμῖνος κλύειν·
φεῦ, τῶν Ἀθηνῶν ὡς στένω μεμνημένος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

στυγναί γ' Ἀθῆναι⁴ δάοις. [αντ. γ.
μεμνήσθαι τοι πάρα
ὡς πολλὰς Περσίδων μάταν
ἔκτισαν εὐνίδας ἡδ' ἀνάνδρους.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

290 σιγῶ πάλαι δύστηνος ἐκπεπληγμένη
κακοῖς· ὑπερβάλλει γὰρ ἦδε συμφορὰ
τὸ μήτε λέξαι μήτ' ἐρωτῆσαι πάθη.
ὅμως δ' ἀνάγκη πημονὰς βροτοῖς φέρειν
θεῶν διδόντων· πᾶν δ' ἀναπτύξας πάθος
295 λέξον καταστάς, κεῖ στένεις κακοῖς ὅμως.
τίς οὐ τέθνηκε, τίνα δέ καὶ πενθήσομεν
τῶν ἀρχελείων, ὅστ' ἐπὶ σκηπτουχία
ταχθεὶς ἄνανδρον τάξιν ἡρήμου θανῶν;

¹ ἐν βολαῖς M, ἐμβολαῖς recc.

² ἀποτμον βοὰν δυσαιανῇ πέρσαις M : Wecklein.

THE PERSIANS

MESSENGER

Aye, for our bows stood us in no stead, and the whole host has perished, overwhelmed when ship charged on ship.

CHORUS

Raise a doleful and mournful wail for the Persians, the wretched Persians, since they have met with complete and utter ruin. Alas for the destruction of our host !

MESSENGER

O name of Salamis most odious to my ears ! Alas, how I groan when I recall the memory of Athens !

CHORUS

Aye, hateful indeed is Athens to her foes. Full well must we remember how many Persian dames she has reft of sons and husbands, lost all in vain.

ATOSSA

Long have I kept silence in my misery, smitten with dismay at our disaster ; for this calamity is so exceeding great as to pass all speech and questioning of our woes. Nevertheless mortals needs must endure affliction when sent of Heaven. Compose thyself, and even though thou groanest at our loss, yet unfold the sum of our disaster and speak out ! Who is there that is *not* dead ? Whom have we to bewail of our leaders, who, appointed to wield the truncheon of command, by death left desolate his post without its chief ?

³ ἔθεσαν : Stadtmüller.

⁴ ἀθῆναι M, ἀθῆναι recc.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

Ξέρξης μὲν αὐτὸς ζῇ τε καὶ βλέπει φάος.¹

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

300 ἐμοῖς μὲν εἶπας δώμασιν φάος μέγα
καὶ λευκὸν ἡμαρ νυκτὸς ἐκ μελαγχίμου.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

Ἄρτεμβάρης δὲ μυρίας ἵππου βραβεὺς
στύφλους παρ' ἀκτὰς θείνεται Σιληνιῶν.
χωὶ χιλίαρχος Δαδάκης πληγῇ δορός
305 πῆδημα κοῦφον ἐκ νεὼς ἀφήλατο·
Τενάγων τ' ἄριστεύς² Βακτρίων ἰθαιγενῆς
θαλασσόπληκτον νῆσον Αἶαντος πολεῖ.
Λίλαιος, Ἀρσάμης τε κάργῆστης τρίτος,
οἷδ' ἀμφὶ νῆσον τὴν πελειοθρέμμονα
310 δινούμενοι³ κύριссон ἰσχυρὰν χθόνα·
πηγαῖς τε Νείλου γειτονῶν Αἰγυπτίου
Ἀρκετεύς, Ἀδεύης, καὶ φερεσσάκης⁴ τρίτος
Φαρνοῦχος, οἷδε ναὸς ἐκ μιᾶς πέссон.
Χρυσεύς Μάταλλος μυριόνταρχος θανῶν,
315 ἵππου μελαίνης ἡγεμῶν τρισμυρίας,
πυρρὰν ζαπληθῇ δάσκιον γενειάδα
ἔτεγγ', ἀμείβων χρώτα πορφυρέα βαφῇ.
καὶ Μᾶγος Ἀραβος, Ἀρτάβης τε Βάκτριος,
σκληρᾶς μέτοικος γῆς, ἐκεῖ κατέφθιτο.
320 Ἀμιστρίς Ἀμφιστρεὺς τε πολὺπονον δόρυ
νωμῶν, ὃ τ' ἐσθλὸς Ἀριόμαρδος Σάρδεσι
πένθος παρασχών, Σεισάμης θ' ὁ Μύσιος,

¹ φάος βλέπει MSS., βλέπει φάος schol. Ran. 1028 (1060).

² ἄριστος: Blomfield.

³ νικώμενοι: Wecklein.

THE PERSIANS

MESSENGER

Xerxes himself lives and beholds the light.

ATOSSA

The words thou utterest bring a great light of joy unto my house, and bright day after night wrapped in gloom.

MESSENGER

But Artembares, commander of ten thousand horse, is dashing now against Silenia's cruel shore. And Dadaces, leader of a thousand men, leaped, spear-smitten, with nimble bound, from his ship. Tenagon, the Bactrians' chieftain of the true old stock, is ranging now around the surf-beaten isle of Ajax. Lilaëus and Arsames, and, third, Argestes, kept buffeting against its rugged strand, whirled round about the isle,¹ the breeding-place of doves. Arcteus, too, who dwelt hard by the waters of the Egyptian Nile, Adeues, and third Pharnuchus of the mighty shield—all these were hurled from out one ship. Matallus of Chrysa, commander of ten thousand, leader of the Black Horse thirty thousand strong, in death dyed red his thick and shaggy beard, changing its colour with a deep purple stain. Arabus, too, the Magian, perished there, and Bactrian Artabes, a settler now in a rugged land. Amistris, and Amphistreus, wielder of his toilsome spear, and brave Ariomardus, whose death brought grief to Sardis, and Seisames the Mysian, and

¹ According to the scholiast, Salamis is meant; according to Hermann, one of the small islands adjacent to Salamis.

⁴ φερσεύης M, φερεσσεύης recc. : Bothe.

Θάρυβις τε πεντήκοντα πεντάκις νεῶν
 325 ταγός, γένος Λυρναῖος, εὐειδὴς ἀνὴρ,
 κείται θανὼν δειλαιοῖς οὐ μάλ' εὐτυχῶς·
 Σύνενοις τε πρῶτος εἰς εὐψυχίαν,
 Κιλικῶν ἄπαρχος,¹ εἰς ἀνὴρ πλείστον πόνον
 ἐχθροῖς παρασχών, εὐκλεῶς ἀπώλετο.
 330 τοσόνδε ταγῶν² νῦν³ ὑπεμνήσθην πέρι.
 πολλῶν παρόντων δ'⁴ ὀλίγ' ἀπαγγέλλω κακά.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

αἰαῖ, κακῶν ὕψιστα δὴ κλύω τάδε,
 αἵσχη τε Πέρσαις καὶ λιγέα κωκύματα.
 ἀτὰρ φράσον μοι τοῦτ' ἀναστρέψας πάλιν·
 335 πόσον δέ⁵ πλήθος ἦν νεῶν Ἑλληνίδων,
 ὥστ' ἀξιῶσαι Περσικῶ στρατεύματι
 μάχην συνάψαι ναῦτοισιν ἐμβολαῖς;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

πλήθους μὲν ἂν σάφ' ἴσθ' ἕκατι βάρβαρον⁶
 ναυσὶν κρατῆσαι. καὶ γὰρ Ἑλλήσιν μὲν ἦν
 340 ὁ πᾶς ἀριθμὸς ἐς τριακάδας δέκα
 ναῶν, δεκάς δ' ἦν τῶνδε χωρὶς ἕκκριτος·
 Ἐέρξη δέ, καὶ γὰρ οἶδα, χιλιάς μὲν ἦν
 ὧν ἦγε πλήθος, αἱ δ' ὑπέρκοποι⁷ τάχει
 ἑκατὸν δις ἦσαν ἐπτά θ'. ὧδ' ἔχει λόγος.
 μὴ σοι δοκοῦμεν τῇδε λειφθῆναι⁸ μάχῃ;
 345 ἀλλ' ὧδε δαίμων τις κατέφθειρε στρατόν,
 τάλαντα βρίσας οὐκ ἰσορρόπῳ τύχῃ.
 θεοὶ πόλιν σφύζουσι Παλλάδος θεᾶς.

¹ ἄπαρχος M, ἔπαρχος recc.

² νῦν om. M.

³ δὴ M, δὲ recc.

⁴ ὑπέρκοποι : Wakefield.

⁵ τοιῶνδ' ἀρχόντων : Weil.

⁶ δ' om. M.

⁷ βαρβάρων : Heath.

⁸ ληφθῆναι M, λειφθῆναι recc.

THE PERSIANS

Tharybis, admiral of five times fifty ships, a Lyrnaean by descent, a comely man, lies dead all wretched in uncomeliness.¹ Syennesis, also, the governor of the Cilicians, foremost in courage, he whose single prowess wrought the foe most harm, found there a glorious death. Such were the leaders touching whom I have now made report. Sore as were our losses, yet I announce but few.

ATOSSA

Alas! The words I hear put the very crown upon our woes—a disgrace to the Persians and cause for shrill lament. But retrace thy tale and tell me clearly this: how great was the number of the ships of Hellas that gave them assurance with their armed prows to join battle with the Persian armament?

MESSENGER

Were numbers all, be well assured the barbarians would have gained the victory with their fleet. For the whole number of the ships of Hellas amounted to ten times thirty, and, apart from these, there was a chosen squadron of ten. But Xerxes, this I know, had under his command a thousand, while those excelling in speed were twice a hundred, and seven more. Such is the reckoning. Think'st thou we were outnumbered in this contest? No, it was some power divine that swayed down the scale of fortune with unequal weight and thus destroyed our host. The gods preserve the city of the goddess Pallas.

¹ The ironical phrase οὐ μάλ' εὐτυχῶς, which is contrasted with εὐειδής, probably refers to his unburied state. Cp. Soph. *Aj.* 1126.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ἔτ' ἄρ' Ἀθηνῶν ἔστ' ἀπόρθητος πόλις;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

ἀνδρῶν γὰρ ὄντων ἔρκος ἐστὶν ἀσφαλές.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

350 ἀρχὴ δὲ ναυσὶ συμβολῆς τίς ἦν, φράσον·
τίνες κατήρξαν, πότερον Ἕλληνες, μάχης,
ἢ παῖς ἐμός, πλήθει καταυχήσας νεῶν;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

ἦρξεν μὲν, ὦ δέσποινα, τοῦ παιτὸς κακοῦ
φανείς ἀλάστωρ ἢ κακὸς δαίμων ποθέν.
355 ἀνὴρ γὰρ Ἕλλην ἐξ Ἀθηναίων στρατοῦ
ἐλθὼν ἔλεξε παιδὶ σῶ Ξέρξῃ τάδε,
ὥς εἰ μελαίνης νυκτὸς ἵξεται κνέφας,
Ἕλληνες οὐ μενοῖεν,¹ ἀλλὰ σέλμασιν
ναῶν ἐπανθορόντες² ἄλλος ἄλλοσε
360 δρασμῷ κρυφαίῳ βίοντον ἐκσωσσίατο.³
ὁ δ' εὐθύς ὥς ἤκουσεν, οὐ ξυνεῖς δόλον
Ἕλληνος ἀνδρὸς οὐδὲ τὸν θεῶν φθόνον,
πᾶσιν προφωνεῖ τόνδε ναυάρχους λόγον,
εἴτ' ἂν φλέγων ἀκτῖσιν ἥλιος χθόνα
365 λήξῃ, κνέφας δὲ τέμενος αἰθέρος λάβῃ,
τάξαι νεῶν στῖφος μὲν ἐν στοίχοις τρισὶν
ἔκπλους φυλάσσειν καὶ πόρους ἀλιρρόθους,
ἄλλας δὲ κύκλῳ νῆσον Αἴαντος περίξ·
ὥς εἰ μόρον φευξοίαθ' Ἕλληνες κακόν,
370 ναυσὶν⁴ κρυφαίως δρασμόν εὐρόντες τινά,
πᾶσιν στέρεσθαι κρατὸς ἦν προκείμενον.

¹ μένοειν : Monk.

² ἐπανθορόντες M, ἐπενθορόντες recc.

³ ἐκσωσσίατο : Monk.

⁴ νηυσὶν M, ναυσὶν recc.

THE PERSIANS

ATOSSA

Is then the city of Athens not yet despoiled ?

MESSENGER

Nay, while her sons still live her ramparts are impregnable.

ATOSSA

But the beginning of the encounter of the fleets—tell me of it. Who began the onset ? Was it the Hellenes ? Or my son, exulting in the multitude of his ships ?

MESSENGER

My Queen, some destructive power or evil spirit, that appeared I know not whence, caused the beginning of our utter rout. A Hellene, from the Athenian host, came to thy son Xerxes and told this tale : that, when the gloom of sable night should set in, the Hellenes would not hold their station, but, springing upon the rowing benches of their ships, would seek, some here, some there, to preserve their lives by stealthy flight. But Xerxes, on hearing this, not comprehending the wile of the Hellene nor yet that the gods grudged him success, straightway gave charge to all his captains to this effect—that, when the sun had ceased to illumine the earth with his beams, and darkness had covered the precincts of the sky, they should bring up in serried order the main body of the fleet, disposed in triple line, to bar the exits and the sounding straits, and station other ships in a circle around the island of Ajax ; with the warning that, should the Hellenes escape an evil doom, finding by stealth some means of flight for their fleet, it had been decreed that every

- τοσαῦτ' ἔλεξε κάρθ' ὑπ' εὐθύμου φρενός·
οὐ γὰρ τὸ μέλλον ἐκ θεῶν ἠπίστατο.
οἱ δ' οὐκ ἀκόσμως, ἀλλὰ πειθάρχῳ φρενὶ
375 δειπνόν τ'¹ ἐπορσύνοντο, ναυβάτης τ' ἀνὴρ
τροποῦτο κώπην σκαλμὸν ἀμφ' εὐήρετμον.
ἐπεὶ δὲ φέγγος ἡλίου κατέφθιτο
καὶ νύξ ἐπῆει, πᾶς ἀνὴρ κώπης ἀναξ
ἐς ναῦν ἐχώρει πᾶς θ'² ὅπλων ἐπιστάτης·
380 τάξις δὲ τάξιν παρεκάλει νεὼς μακρᾶς·
πλέουσι δ' ὡς ἕκαστος ἦν τεταγμένος,
καὶ πάννυχτοι δὴ διάπλοον καθίστασαν
ναῶν ἄνακτες πάντα ναυτικὸν λεῶν.
καὶ νύξ ἐχώρει, κοῦ μάλ' Ἑλλήνων στρατὸς
385 κρυφαῖον ἔκπλουν οὐδαμῇ καθίστατο·
ἐπεὶ γε μέντοι λευκόπωλος ἡμέρα
πᾶσαν κατέσχε γαῖαν εὐφεγγῆς ἰδεῖν,
πρῶτον μὲν ἡχῇ κέλαδος Ἑλλήνων πάρα
μολπηδὸν ἠυφήμησεν,³ ὄρθιον δ' ἄμα
390 ἀντηλάλαξε νησιώτιδος πέτρας
ἡχώ· φόβος δὲ πᾶσι βαρβάροις παρῆν
γνώμης ἀποσφαλεῖσιν· οὐ γὰρ ὡς φυγῇ
παιᾶν ἐφύμνουν σεμνὸν Ἕλληνες τότε,
ἀλλ' ἐς μάχην ὀρμῶντες εὐψύχῳ θράσει·
395 σάλπιγξ δ'⁴ αὐτῇ πάντ' ἐκεῖν' ἐπέφλεγεν.
εὐθύς δὲ κώπης ῥοθιάδος ξυνεμβολῇ
ἔπαισαν ἄλμην βρύχιον ἐκ κελεύματος,
θοῶς δὲ πάντες ἦσαν ἐκφανεῖς ἰδεῖν.
τὸ δεξιὸν μὲν πρῶτον εὐτάκτως κέρας
400 ἠγγεῖτο κόσμῳ, δεύτερον δ' ὁ πᾶς στόλος
ἐπεξεχώρει, καὶ παρῆν ὁμοῦ κλύειν
πολλὴν βοήν, “ὦ παῖδες Ἑλλήνων ἴτε,

¹ δειπνον M, δειπνόν τ' N.

² δ' M, θ' recc.

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captain should lose his head. So he commanded in full confidence of heart, since he knew not the issue purposed of the gods. Our crews then, with no lack of order but with an obedient spirit, prepared their evening meal, while each sailor looped his oar about its thole-pin so that it fitted well. But when the light of the sun had faded and night drew on, each master of an oar and each man versed in arms went on board. The long galleys cheered each other, line by line; and they held their course as each captain had been ordered, and all the livelong night the commanders of the fleet kept their whole force cruising to and fro across the strait. Night began to wane, yet the fleet of the Hellenes in no wise endeavoured to put forth by stealth. When, however, radiant Day with her white coursers shone over all the land, first of all from the Hellenes rang out loud a cheer like unto a song of triumph, and, at the same instant, clear from the island crags Echo returned an answering cry. Terror fell on all the barbarians, balked of their purpose; for not as in flight did in that hour the Hellenes chant their solemn paeon, but as men rushing to the onset with the courage of gallant hearts. The trumpet with its blast fired all their line; and instantly, at the word of command, with the even stroke of foaming oars they smote the briny deep. Swiftly they all hove clear into view. Their right wing, well marshalled, led on foremost in orderly advance, next their whole armament bore out against us, and at the same time a mighty shout greeted our ears: "On, ye sons of Hellas! Free your native land, free

³ εὐφήμεσαν : Brunck.

⁴ δ' added in M.

405 ἐλευθεροῦτε πατρίδ', ἐλευθεροῦτε δὲ
 παῖδας, γυναῖκας, θεῶν τε πατρώων ἔδη,
 θήκας τε προγόνων· νῦν ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀγών."
 καὶ μὴν παρ' ἡμῶν Περσίδος γλώσσης ρόθος
 ὑπηντίαζε, κούκέτ' ἦν μέλλειν ἀκμή.
 εὐθύς δὲ ναὺς ἐν νηὶ χαλκῇρη στόλον
 410 ἔπαισεν· ἦρξε δ' ἐμβολῆς Ἑλληνικῇ
 ναὺς, κάποθραύει πάντα Φοινίσσης νεὼς
 κόρυμβ', ἐπ' ἄλλην δ' ἄλλος ἠΰθνηεν δόρυ.
 τὰ πρῶτα μὲν νυν¹ ρεῦμα Περσικοῦ στρατοῦ
 ἀντείχεν· ὥς δὲ πλήθος ἐν στενώ νεῶν
 ἦθροιστ', ἀρωγῇ δ' οὔτις ἀλλήλοις παρῆν,
 415 αὐτοὶ δ' ὑφ' αὐτῶν² ἐμβόλοις³ χαλκοστόμοις
 παίοντ', ἔθρανον πάντα κωπήρη στόλον,
 Ἑλληνικαὶ τε νῆες οὐκ ἀφρασμόνως
 κύκλῳ πέριξ ἔθεινον, ὑπτιοῦτο δὲ
 σκάφη νεῶν, θάλασσα δ' οὐκέτ' ἦν ἰδεῖν,
 420 ναυαγίων πλήθουσα καὶ φόνου βροτῶν.
 ἀκταὶ δὲ νεκρῶν χοιράδες τ' ἐπλήθουν,
 φυγῇ δ' ἀκόσμω⁴ πᾶσα ναὺς ἠρέσσετο,
 ὅσαιπερ ἦσαν βαρβάρου στρατεύματος.
 τοὶ δ' ὥστε θύννους ἢ τιν' ἰχθύων βόλον
 425 ἀγαῖσι κωπῶν θραύμασιν τ' ἐρειπίων
 ἔπαιον, ἐρράχιζον· οἰμωγῇ⁵ δ' ὁμοῦ
 κωκύμασιν κατέιχε πελαγίαν ἅλα,
 ἕως κελαινῆς νυκτὸς ὁμί' ἀφείλετο.
 κακῶν δὲ πλήθος, οὐδ' ἂν εἰ δέκ' ἤματα
 430 στοιχηγοροίην,⁶ οὐκ ἂν ἐκπλήσαιμί σοι.
 εὔ γάρ τόδ' ἴσθι, μηδάμ'⁷ ἡμέρα μιᾷ
 πλήθος τοσουτάριβμον⁸ ἀνθρώπων θανέειν.

¹ νῦν M, νυν recc.

² ὑπ' αὐτῶν M, ὑφ' αὐτῶν recc.

³ ἐμβολαῖς : Stanley.

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your children, your wives, the fanes of your fathers' gods, and the tombs of your ancestors. Now you battle for your all." And now from our side arose responsive the mingled clamour of Persian speech; the time brooked no delay, but instantly ship dashed against ship its bronze-sheathed beak. It was a ship of Hellas that began the charge and sheared off entire the curved stern of a Phoenician barque. Each captain drove his ship straight against some other ship. At first, indeed, the stream of the Persian armament held its own; but when the mass of our ships had been crowded in the narrows, and none could render another aid, and each crashed its bronze-faced beak against each of its own line, they shivered their whole array of oars; while the Hellenic galleys, not heedless of their chance, hemmed them in and battered them on every side. The hulls of our vessels rolled over and the sea was hidden from our sight, strewn as it was with wrecks and slaughtered men. The shores and reefs were crowded with our dead, and every ship that formed a part of the barbarian fleet plied its oars in disorderly flight. But, as if our men were tunnies or some haul of fish, the foe kept striking and hacking them with broken oars and fragments of wrecked ships; and groans and shrieks together filled the open sea until the face of sable night hid the scene. But the multitude of our disasters I could not narrate in full at thy request even were I to make a ten days' story of my tale. Be well assured of this—there never perished in a single day so great a multitude of men.

⁴ ἀκόσμως M, ἀκόσμη H².

⁵ οἰμαγῆς M, οἰμαγή recc.

⁶ στοιχειογαροίην with ο over α M, στοιχηγοροίην recc.

⁷ μήδ' ἂν M, μηδάμ' recc.

⁸ τοσοῦτ' ἀριθμὸν M, τοσουτἀριθμον recc.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

αἰαῖ, κακῶν δὴ πέλαγος ἔρρωγεν¹ μέγα
Πέρσαις τε καὶ πρόπαντι βαρβάρων γένει.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

435 εἶ νυν² τόδ' ἴσθι, μηδέπω μεσοῦν κακόν·
τοιᾶδ' ἐπ' αὐτοῖς³ ἦλθε συμφορὰ πάνθους
ὥς τοῖσδε καὶ δις ἀντισηκῶσαι ῥοπή.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

καὶ τίς γένοιτ' ἂν τῇσδ' ἔτ'⁴ ἐχθίων τύχη;
440 λέξον τίν' αὖ φῆς τήνδε συμφορὰν στρατῷ
ἐλθεῖν κακῶν ῥέπουσαν ἐς τὰ μάσσονα.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

Περσῶν ὅσοιπερ ἦσαν ἀκμαῖοι φύσιν,
ψυχὴν τ' ἄριστοι κευγένειαν ἐκπρεπεῖς,
αὐτῷ τ' ἀνακτι πίστιν ἐν πρώτοις αἰεί,
τεθνᾶσιν αἰσχροῶς⁵ δυσκλεεστάτῳ μόρῳ.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

445 οἷ γὰρ⁶ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς κακῆς, φίλοι.
ποίῳ μόρῳ δὲ τοῦσδε φῆς ὀλωλέναι;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

νῆσός τις ἔστι πρόσθε Σαλαμῖνος τόπων,
βαιά, δύσορμος ναυσίν,⁷ ἦν δ' φιλόχορος
Πὰν ἐμβατεύει, ποντίας ἀκτῆς ἔπι.
450 ἐνταῦθα πέμπει τοῦσδ', ὅπως, ὅταν νεῶν
φθαρέντες ἐχθροὶ νῆσον ἐκσωζοῖατο,

¹ ἔρρωγεται M, ἔρρωγε m^l.

² αὐτοῖς M, αὐτοὺς recc.

³ αἰσχροῶς M, οἰκτρῶς P.

⁴ τῇσδ' ἔτ' M, τῇσδ' ἔτ' AN.

⁵ οἷ γὰρ M : Porson.

⁶ νησὶν M, ναυσὶν recc.

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ATOSSA

Alas ! In sooth a mighty sea of troubles has burst upon the Persians and the entire barbarian race.

MESSENGER

Be well assured of this, the disaster is not as yet half told. So dire an affliction of calamity fell upon them as to outweigh these ills, aye twice over.

ATOSSA

But what fortune could have befallen yet more malign than this? Speak ! What is this other disaster thou sayest came upon our host, sinking the scale to greater weight of ill ?

MESSENGER

What Persians were in their life's prime, bravest in spirit, pre-eminent for noble birth, and ever among the foremost in loyalty unto the King himself—these have fallen ignobly by a most inglorious doom.

ATOSSA

Ah, wretched that I am, my friends, by reason of this cruel pass ! By what manner of death sayest thou they perished ?

MESSENGER

There is an island¹ fronting Salamis, small, a dangerous anchorage for ships ; and upon its sea-washed shore dance-loving Pan is wont to tread. Thither Xerxes dispatched these, his choicest troops, in order that when the Hellenic foe, wrecked from out his ships, should seek escape in safety to the island, they

¹ Psyttalea.

κτείνοιεν εὐχείρωτον Ἑλλήνων στρατόν,
 φίλους δ' ὑπεκσώζοιεν¹ ἐναλίων πόρων,
 κακῶς τὸ μέλλον ἱστορῶν. ὥς γὰρ θεὸς
 455 ναῶν ἔδωκε κῦδος Ἑλλήσιν μάχης,
 αὐθημερόν φράξαντες εὐχάλοις δέμας
 ὅπλοισι ναῶν ἐξέθρῳσκον· ἀμφὶ δὲ
 κυκλοῦντο πᾶσαν νῆσον, ὥστ' ἀμυχανεῖν
 460 ὅποι τράποιντο. πολλὰ μὲν γὰρ ἐκ χερῶν
 πέτροισιν ἠράσσοντο, τοξικῆς τ' ἀπο
 θύμιογος ἰοὶ προσπίτνοντες ὤλλυσαν.²
 τέλος δ' ἐφορμηθέντες ἐξ ἑνὸς ῥόθου
 παίουσι, κρεοκοποῦσι³ δυστήνων μέλη,
 ἕως ἀπάντων ἐξαπέφθειραν βίον.
 465 Ἐέρξης δ' ἀνώμωξεν⁴ κακῶν ὁρῶν βάθος·
 ἔδραν γὰρ εἶχε παντὸς εὐαγῇ στρατοῦ,
 ὑψηλὸν ὄχθον ἄγχι πελαγίας⁵ ἁλός·
 ῥήξας δὲ πέπλους κἀνακωκύσας λιγύ,
 470 πεζῶ παραγγείλας ἄφαρ στρατεύματι,
 ἦσ' ἀκόσμῳ ξὺν φυγῇ. τοιάνδε σοι
 πρὸς τῇ πάροιθε συμφορὰν πάρα⁶ στένειν.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ὦ στυγνὲ δαῖμον, ὥς ἄρ' ἔψευσας φρενῶν
 Πέρσας· πικράν δὲ παῖς ἑμὸς τιμωρίαν
 κλεινῶν Ἀθηνῶν ἤνρε,⁷ κοῦκ ἀπήρκεσαν⁸
 475 οὓς πρόσθε Μαραθῶν βαρβάρων ἀπώλεσαν·
 ὦν ἀντίποινα παῖς ἑμὸς πράξειν δοκῶν
 τοσόνδε⁹ πληθὸς πημάτων ἐπέσπασεν.

¹ ὑπεκσώζοιεν M: Kirchhoff. ² ὤλλυσαν M, ὥλλυσαν recc.

³ κρεωκοποῦσι changed to κρεοκοποῦσι M.

⁴ ἀνώμωξεν M, ἀνώμωξεν recc.

THE PERSIANS

might slaughter his force, an easy prey, and rescue their comrades from the narrows of the sea. Grievously did he misjudge the issue. For when some god had given the glory to the Hellenes in the battle on the sea, that self-same day, fencing their bodies in armour of goodly bronze, they bounded from their ships and encircled the whole island round about, so that our men were at a loss which way to turn. Oft-time they were struck by stones slung from their hands, and arrows sped from the bow-string kept ever falling upon them and working them destruction. At last the Hellenes, charging with one shout, smote them and hacked to pieces the limbs of the poor wretches, until they had utterly destroyed the life of all. Xerxes groaned aloud when he beheld the depth of the disaster; for he occupied a seat commanding a clear view of all the armament—a lofty eminence hard by the open sea. Rending his robes and uttering a loud wail, he forthwith gave orders to his force on land and dismissed them in disorderly flight. Such, besides the one already told, is the disaster thou must bewail.

ATOSSA

O hateful divinity, how hast thou foiled the purpose of the Persians! Cruel was the vengeance brought upon himself that my son designed for illustrious Athens, and the barbarians whom afore-time Marathon destroyed were not enough. For them my son thought to exact retribution, and has drawn upon himself so great a multitude of woes.

⁵ πελασγίας M, πελαγίας recc.

⁶ παρὰ M, παρά m.

⁷ εὔρε: Kirchhoff.

⁸ ἀπήρκεσε M, ἀπήρκεσαν recc.

⁹ τοσῶν δὲ M, τοσόνδε recc.

σὺ δ' εἰπέ, ναῶν αἰ πεφεύγασιν μόρον,
 ποῦ τάσδ' ἔλειπες· οἶσθα σημῆναι τορῶς;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

- 480 ναῶν γε¹ ταγοὶ τῶν λελειμμένων σύδην
 κατ' οὔρον οὐκ εὖκοσμον αἴρονται² φυγὴν·
 στρατὸς δ' ὁ λοιπὸς ἔν τε Βοιωτῶν χθονι
 διώλλυθ', οἱ μὲν ἀμφὶ κρηναῖον γάνος
 δίψῃ πονοῦντες, οἱ δ' ὑπ' ἄσθματος κενοὶ
 485 διεκπερῶμεν ἔς τε Φωκέων χθόνα
 καὶ Δωρίδ' αἶαν, Μηλιᾷ τε κόλπον, οὐ
 Σπερχειὸς ἄρδει πεδίον εὐμενεῖ ποτῶ·
 κἀντεῦθεν ἡμᾶς γῆς Ἀχαιῖδος πέδον
 καὶ Θεσσαλῶν πόλεις³ ὑπεσπανισμένους
 490 βορᾶς ἐδέξαντ'. ἐνθα δὴ πλεῖστοι θάνον
 δίψῃ τε λιμῶ τ' ἀμφοτέρω γὰρ ἦν τάδε.
 Μαγνητικὴν δὲ γαῖαν ἔς τε Μακεδόνων
 χώραν ἀφικόμεσθ', ἐπ' Ἀξίου πόρον,
 Βόλβης⁴ θ' ἔλειον δόνακα, Πάγγαιόν τ' ὄρος,
 495 Ἰδωνίδ' αἶαν· νυκτὶ δ' ἐν ταύτῃ θεὸς
 χειμῶν' ἄωρον ὤρσε, πήγνυσιν δὲ πᾶν
 ῥέεθρον ἀγνοῦ Στρυμόνος. θεοὺς δέ τις
 τὸ πρὶν νομίζων οὐδαμοῦ τότ' ἠὔχετο⁵
 λιταῖσι, γαῖαν οὐρανόν τε προσκυνῶν.
 500 ἐπεὶ δὲ πολλὰ θεοκλυτῶν ἐπαύσατο
 στρατὸς, περᾶ κρυσταλλοπήγα διὰ πόρον·
 χῶστις μὲν ἡμῶν πρὶν σκεδασθῆναι θεοῦ
 ἄκτινας ὥρμήθη, σεσωσμένος κυρεῖ.
 φλέγων γὰρ αὐγαῖς λαμπρὸς ἡλίου κύκλος
 505 μέσον πόρον διήκε, θερμαίνων φλογί·

¹ δὲ: Rob.

² αἰροῦνται M, αἰροῦνται recc.: Elmsley.

³ πόλεις M, πόλισμ' recc.: L. Schiller.

THE PERSIANS

But the ships that escaped destruction—tell me of them. Where didst thou leave them? Know'st thou to make clear report?

MESSENGER

The commanders of the ships that still remained fled with a rush in disorder before the wind. As for the survivors of the army, they perished in Boeotian land, some distressed by thirst beside a refreshing spring, while some of us, exhausted and panting, won our way to the land of the Phocians, to Doris and the Melian gulf, where the Spercheus waters the plain with kindly stream. Thence the soil of the Achæan land and the cities of the Thes-salians received us, sore in want of food. There it was that full many perished of thirst and hunger—for we were oppressed by both. And we came to the Magnesian land and to the country of the Macedonians, to the ford of the Axios and Bolbe's reedy fens, and to Mount Pangæus, in Edonian land. But on that night the god roused winter before its time and froze the stream of sacred Strymon from shore to shore; and many a man who ere that had held the gods in no esteem, implored them then in supplication as he worshipped earth and heaven. But when our host had made an end of its fervent invocation of the gods, it ventured to pass across the ice-bound stream. And whosoever of us started on his way before the beams of the sun-god were dispersed abroad, found himself in safety; for the bright orb of the sun with its burning rays heated the mid-passage and pierced it with its flames. One upon another our men sank

⁴ βολβῆς M.

⁵ εὔχετο M: Kirchhoff.

πίπτον δ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισιν· ἡτύχει¹ δέ τοι
 ὅστις τάχιστα πνεῦμ' ἀπέρρηξεν βίου.
 ὅσοι δέ λοιποὶ κάτυχον σωτηρίας,
 510 Θρήκην περάσαντες μόγις πολλῶ πόνῳ,
 ἤκουσιν ἐκφυγόντες, οὐ πολλοὶ τινες,
 ἐφ' ἐστιοῦχον γαῖαν· ὡς στένειν πόλιν
 Περσῶν, ποθοῦσαν φιλάττην ἥβην χθονός.
 ταῦτ' ἔστ' ἀληθῆ· πολλὰ δ' ἐκλείπω λέγων
 κακῶν ἃ Πέρσαις ἐγκατέσκηψεν θεός.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

515 ὦ δυσπρόνυγε δαῖμον, ὡς ἄγαν βαρὺς
 ποδοῖν ἐνήλου² παντὶ Περσικῶ γένει.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

οἱ ἄγ' ὅς τάλαινα διαπεπραγμένου στρατοῦ·
 ὦ νυκτὸς ὄψις ἐμφανὲς ἐνυπνίων,
 ὡς κάρτα μοι σαφῶς ἐδήλωσας κακά.
 520 ὑμεῖς δέ φαύλως αὐτ' ἄγαν ἐκρίνατε.
 ὅμως δ', ἐπειδὴ τῇδ' ἐκύρωσεν φάτις
 ὑμῶν, θεοῖς μὲν πρῶτον εὖξασθαι θέλω·
 ἔπειτα Γῇ τε καὶ φθιτοῖς δωρήματα
 ἥξω λαβοῦσα πέλανον ἐξ οἴκων ἐμῶν,—
 525 ἐπίσταμαι μὲν ὡς ἐπ' ἐξειργασμένοις,
 ἀλλ' ἐς τὸ λοιπὸν εἴ τι δὴ λῶον πέλοι.
 ὑμᾶς⁴ δέ χρῆ' πὶ τοῖσδε τοῖς πεπραγμένοις
 πιστοῖσι⁵ πιστὰ ξυμφέρειν βουλευματα·
 καὶ παῖδ', ἕαν περ δεῦρ' ἐμοῦ πρόσθεν μόλῃ,

¹ εὐτυχεῖ M, εὐτυχῆς recc. : Schneider, Paley.

² ἐνήλου M, ἐνήλλου recc.

³ οἱ ἐγὼ M, οἱ ἐγώ recc. : Porson.

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in, and fortunate indeed was he whose breath of life was sundered soonest. All who survived and won to safety, when they had made their way through Thrace, as they best could, with grievous hardships, escaped and reached—and few they were indeed—the land of hearth and home; so that the city of the Persians well may make lament in regret for the best beloved youth of the land. My tale is true. Yet much remains untold of the ills launched by Heaven upon the Persians. [Exit

CHORUS

O unearthly power, source of our cruel distress, with what crushing weight hast thou sprung upon the whole Persian race!

ATOSSA

Ah wretched that I am at the utter destruction of our host! O vivid vision of my dreams at night, how all too clearly didst thou signify misfortune unto me! And all too lightly did ye in turn interpret it. Howbeit, since your explanation determined thus, first of all I am fain to offer prayers unto the gods, and then I will return after I have brought from the palace a sacrificial cake as a gift to Earth and the departed. I know indeed that it is for what is past recall, yet in the hope that something more auspicious may befall in days to come. But for you 'tis fitting to communicate trusty rede unto the Trusty in view of what has befallen thus. And my son—should he come hither before I return—

⁴ ἡμᾶς M, ὑμᾶς rec.

⁵ πιστοῖς M, πιστοῖς γε L, πιστοῖσι Pγρ.

530 παρηγορεῖτε, καὶ προπέμπετ' ἐς δόμους,
μὴ καὶ τι¹ πρὸς κακοῖσι προσθῇται² κακόν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ Ζεῦ βασιλεῦ, νῦν <γάρ>³ Περσῶν
τῶν μεγαλάρχων καὶ πολυάνδρων
στρατιὰν δλῆσας
535 ἄστυ τὸ Σούσων ἦδ' Ἀγβατάνων
πένθει δνοφερῶ κατέκρυψας·
πολλαὶ δ' ἀταλαῖς⁴ χερσὶ καλύπτρας
κατερευκόμεναι
διαμυδαλέοις δάκρυσι κόλπους
540 τέγγουσ', ἄλγους μετέχουσαι.
αἱ δ' ἄβρόγοι Περσίδες ἀνδρῶν
ποθέουσαι ἰδεῖν ἀρτιζυγίαν,
λέκτρων εὐνὰς ἀβροχίτωνας,
χλιδανῆς ἥβης τέρψιν, ἀφείσαι,
545 πενθοῦσι γόοις ἀκορεστοτάτοις.
κἀγὼ δὲ μόρον τῶν οἰχομένων
αἴρω δοκίμως πολυπενθῇ.

νῦν γὰρ δὴ πρόπασα μὲν στένει γαῖ' [στρ. α.
'Ασιὰς ἐκκενουμένα.

550 Ξέρξης μὲν⁵ ἄγαγεν,⁶ ποποῖ,
Ξέρξης δ' ἀπώλεσεν, τοτοῖ,
Ξέρξης δὲ πάντ' ἐπέσπε δυσφρόνως
βαρίδεσσι ποντίαις.⁷
τίπτε⁸ Δαρεῖος μὲν οὖ-
555 τω τότε' ἀβλαβῆς ἐπῆν
τόξαρχος πολυήταις,⁹
Σουσίδαις¹⁰ φίλος ἄκτωρ;

¹ μὴ κέτι M, μὴ καὶ τι N.

THE PERSIANS

do ye comfort him and escort him to the palace, lest he should inflict on himself some further woe to crown those already ours.

[Exit

CHORUS

O sovereign Zeus, now indeed that thou hast destroyed the armament of the high-vaunting and multitudinous Persians, thou hast shrouded in the gloom of grief the city of Susa and of Agbatana! Many a dame, having her portion in our sorrow, rends her veil with tender hands and bedews with drenching tears the robe mantling her bosom. And the Persian wives, indulging in soft wailing through longing to behold their late-wedded lords, abandon the daintily wrought coverlets of their couches, wherein their delicate youth had its joyance, and mourn with complainings that know no satiety. So I too raise the burthen of unfeigned lament for the death of those who departed hence.

For now in truth the whole land of Asia, dispeopled, maketh moan: Xerxes led forth (woe!), Xerxes laid low (woe!), Xerxes disposed all things imprudently with his sea-faring barques. Why then was Darius in his time so scatheless a lord of the bow unto his people, to the men of Susa a leader dear?

² πρόσθητε M: πρόσθεται Turn. ³ <γάρ> Herm.

⁴ ἀπαλαῖς M, ἀπαλαῖς recc., ἀπαλαῖς F.

⁵ μὲν γάρ: Porson.

⁶ ἤγαγεν: Blomfield.

⁷ βαρίδες τε ποντίαι M, βαρίδεσσι ποντίαις recc.

⁸ τί ποτε most mss., τίποτε PN.

⁹ πολήταις M marg., πολίταις recc., πολήταις FN.

¹⁰ σουσίδης M, with ο over ε m¹: σουσίδαίς PV.

- πεζοὺς τε γὰρ καὶ¹ θαλασσίους
 λινόπτεροι² κυανώπιδες [ἀντ. α.
 560 νᾶες μὲν ἄγαγον, ποποῖ,
 νᾶες δ' ἀπώλεσαν, τοτοῖ,
 νᾶες πανωλέθρουσιν³ ἐμβολαῖς,
 αἱ τ' Ἰαόνων χέρες.⁴
 τυτθὰ δ' ἐκφυγεῖν ἄνακτ'
 565 αὐτὸν εἰσακούομεν⁵
 Θρηῆκης ἅμ πεδιήρεις
 δυσχίμους⁶ τε κελεύθους.
- τοὶ δ' ἄρα πρωτόμοιροι,⁷ φεῦ,
 λειφθέντες⁸ πρὸς ἀνάγκας,⁹ ἡέ,
 570 ἀκτὰς ἀμφὶ Κυχρείας,¹⁰ ὁᾶ,
 <σύρονται>.¹¹ στένε καὶ δακνά-
 ζου, βαρὺ δ' ἀμβόασον
 οὐράνι' ἄχῃ, ὁᾶ.
 τεῖνε δὲ δυσβάυκτον
 575 βοᾶτιν τάλαιναν αὐδάν.
 γναπτόμενοι δὲ δίνα,¹² φεῦ,
 σκύλλονται¹³ πρὸς ἀναύδων, ἡέ,
 παίδων τᾶς ἀμιάντου, ὁᾶ.
 πενθεὶ δ' ἄνδρα δόμος στερη-
 580 θεῖς, τοκέες¹⁴ τ' ἄπαιδες
 δαιμόνι¹⁵ ἄχῃ, ὁᾶ,
 δυσρόμενοι γέροντες
 τὸ πᾶν δὴ κλύουσιν ἄλγος.
 τοὶ δ' ἀνὰ γᾶν Ἀσίαν δὴν [στρ. γ.
 585 οὐκέτι περσονομοῦνται,
 οὐδ' ἔτι δασμοφοροῦσιν

¹ τε γὰρ καὶ M marg., τε καὶ recc., γὰρ καὶ recc.

² αἱ δ' ὀμόπτεροι: Schütz.

THE PERSIANS

For landsmen and seamen both, the ships, dark-eyed¹ and linen-winged, led forth (woe!), the ships laid them low (woe!), the ships, under the deadly impact of the foe and by the hands of Ionians. The King himself, as we learn, hath barely made his escape over the wintry ways that traverse the plains of Thrace.

And they who were first to meet their doom (alas!), left behind perforce (alas!), are swept along about the Cychrean strand (woe!). Groan and gnash your teeth; in grievous strain shout forth our woes till they reach the heavens (alas!), raise high your wailing clamour in cries of misery.

Lacerated by the swirling waters (alas!) they are gnawed (alas!) by the voiceless children of the stainless sea (alas!). The home, bereaved of his presence, lamenteth its head; and parents, reft of their children, in their old age bewail their heaven-sent woes (alas!), now that they learn the full measure of their afflictions.

Not now for long will they that dwell throughout the length and breadth of Asia abide under the sway of the Persians, nor will they pay further

¹ The great eye that was often painted on each bow made a Greek ship seem a thing of life. Cp. *Suppl.* 716.

³ πανωλεθροισιν M, ο changed to ω m¹, πανωλέθροισιν recc.

⁴ διὰ δ' . . . χέρας: Enger. ⁵ ὡς ἀκούομεν: Pauw.

⁶ δυσχειμέρους: Arnaldus.

⁷ πρωτόμοροι M recc., πρωτόμοιροι P.

⁸ λειφθέντες M recc., ληφθέντες recc.

⁹ ἀνάγκαν: Blomfield.

¹⁰ κυχρείας M, π over χ m.

¹¹ <σύρονται> Wilam.

¹² δ' ἀλλ' αἰὶ δεῖνά: Herm.

¹³ σκύλονται M, σκύλλονται recc.

¹⁴ τοκῆς M recc., τοκῆες N.

¹⁵ ἔρα (ἔρραται A, ἔρρανται recc.) δαιμόνι' M: Porson.

δεσποσύνοισιν ἀνάγκαις,
οὐδ' ²¹ ἐς γὰν προπίτνοντες ²
ἄζονται ³ βασιλεία
590 γὰρ διόλωλεν ἰσχύς.

οὐδ' ἔτι γλώσσα βροτοῖσιν
ἐν φυλακαῖς· λέλυται γὰρ
λαὸς ἐλεύθερα βάζειν,
ὥς ἐλύθη ζυγὸν ἀλκᾶς.
595 αἵμαχθεῖσα δ' ἄρουραν ⁴
Αἴαντος περικλύστα
νᾶσος ἔχει τὰ Περσῶν. ⁵

[ἀντ. γ.]

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

φίλοι, κακῶν μὲν ὅστις ἔμπειρος ⁶ κυρεῖ,
ἐπίσταται βροτοῖσιν ὥς ὅταν κλύδων
600 κακῶν ἐπέλθῃ πάντα δειμαίνειν φιλεῖ·
ὅταν δ' ὁ δαίμων εὐρῶῃ, πεποιθέναι
τὸν αὐτὸν αἰεὶ δαίμον' οὐριεῖν τύχην.
ἔμοι γὰρ ἤδη πάντα μὲν φόβον πλέα
ἐν ὄμμασιν τὰνταῖα φαίνεται θεῶν,
605 βοᾷ δ' ἐν ὧσὶ κέλαδος οὐ παιώνιος·
τοῖα κακῶν ἔκπληξις ἐκφοβεῖ φρένας.

τοιγὰρ κέλευθον τήνδ' ἄνευ τ' ⁸ ὀχημάτων
χλιδῆς τε τῆς πάρουθεν ἐκ δόμων πάλιν
ἔστειλα, ⁹ παιδὸς πατρὶ πρευμανεῖς χοᾶς
610 φέρονσ', ἅπερ νεκροῖσι μειλικτήρια, ¹⁰
βοός τ' ἀφ' ἀγνῆς λευκὸν εὐποτον γάλα,
τῆς τ' ἀνθεμουργοῦ στάγμα, παμφαῆς μέλι,
λιβάσιν ὕδρηλαῖς παρθένου πηγῆς μέτα,

¹ οὐτ' : Brunn, Heath.

² προσπίτνοντες M, προπίτνοντες FN. ³ ἄρζονται : Halm.

⁴ ἄρουρα : Porson.

⁵ περσῶν : Blomfield.

THE PERSIANS

tribute at the compulsion of their lord, nor will they prostrate themselves to the earth and do him reverence; since the kingly power hath perished utterly.

No longer will men keep a curb upon their tongues; for the people are set free to utter their thoughts at will, now that the yoke of power hath been broken. The blood-stained soil of Ajax' sea-washed isle holdeth all that once was Persia.

[Enter Atossa

ATOSSA

My friends, whosoever has experience of misery knows that when a sea of troubles comes upon mortal men, they are wont to view all things with alarm; but when fortune flows with prosperous tide, to trust that the selfsame fortune will waft them success for aye. Now in my case it hath come to this: everything full of dread seems in my eyes the visitation of Heaven, and in my ears there rings a sound that has no note of joy; such is the consternation at evil tidings that affrights my soul.

'Tis for this reason that I have directed my course hither from the palace once again, without my chariot and my former pomp, and bring, as propitiatory libations for the father of my son, offerings that serve to soothe the dead, both white milk, sweet to drink, from an unblemished cow, and bright honey, distillation wrought from blossoms by the bee, together with lustral water from a virgin spring; and this

⁶ ἔμπορος M rec., ἔμπειρος H. ⁷ τύχης: Blomfield.

⁸ τ' ἀνταῖα M, τάντατα rec.

⁹ ἐστείλατο M, ἐστεῖλα τῷ L, ἐστεῖλα πατρὶ QK.

¹⁰ μελικτήρια M, μειλικτήρια rec.

- 615 ἀκήρατόν τε μητρὸς ἀγρίας ἄπο
ποτὸν παλαιᾶς ἀμπέλου γάνος τόδε·
τῆς τ' αἰὲν ἐν φύλλοισι θαλλούσης βίον
ξανθῆς ἐλαίας καρπὸς εὐώδης πάρα,
ἄνθη τε πλεκτά,¹ παμφόρου γαίης τέκνα.
620 ἄλλ', ὦ φίλοι, χοαῖσι ταῖσδε νερτέρων
ὕμνους ἐπευφημεῖτε, τόν τε δαίμονα
Δαρεῖον ἀνακαλεῖσθε,² γαπότους δ' ἐγὼ
τιμὰς προπέμψω τάσδε νερτέροις θεοῖς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 625 βασιλεία γύναι, πρέσβος Πέρσαις,
σύ τε πέμπε χοᾶς θαλάμους ὑπὸ γῆς,
ἡμεῖς θ' ὕμνοις αἰτησόμεθα
φθιμένων πομπούς
εὐφρονας εἶναι κατὰ γαίης.
ἀλλά, χθόνιοι δαίμονες ἀγνοί,
Γῇ τε καὶ Ἑρμῇ, βασιλεῦ τ' ἐνέρων,
630 πέμψατ' ἔνερθεν ψυχὴν ἐς φῶς·
εἰ γάρ τι κακῶν ἄκος οἶδε πλέον,
μόνος ἂν θνητῶν πέρας εἴποι.

- ἦ ῥ' αἶει μου³ μακαρίτας [στρ. α.
ἰσοδαίμων βασιλεὺς
635 βάρβαρ' ἀσαφηνῇ⁴
ἰέντος τὰ παναίοι⁵ αἰ-
ανῇ δύσθροα βάγματ', ἦ⁵
παντάλαν' ἄχῃ διαβοάσω;
νέρθεν ἄρα κλύει μου;
640 ἀλλὰ σύ μοι Γᾶ τε καὶ ἄλλοι [ἀντ. α.
χθονίων ἀγεμόνες

¹ πλεκτά M, ε over η m.

THE PERSIANS

unmixed draught, the quickening juice of an ancient vine, its mother in the fields. Here too is the fragrant fruit of the pale-green olive that ever lives its life in luxuriant foliage ; and garlanded flowers, children of the bounteous earth.

But come, my friends, do ye chant solemn songs as I make these libations to the dead, and summon forth the divine spirit of Darius, while I convey, in honour of the nether gods, these offerings for the earth to quaff.

CHORUS

Royal lady, august majesty of the Persians, do thou pour these libations down to the chambers of the earth, while we, in solemn chant, beseech the conductors of the dead beneath the earth to be gracious to our prayers.

Ye holy divinities of the nether world, Earth and Hermes, and thou, Lord of the dead, send forth to the light the spirit from below ; for if, beyond our prayers, he knoweth any further remedy for our distress, he alone of mortals can declare how to bring it to accomplishment.

Doth then our sainted and godlike king hear me as I utter, in obscure barbaric speech, these my dismal and dolorous cries of varied sort ? Or must I shout aloud the utter misery of my anguish that it pierce the earth ? Doth he hear me from below ?

O Earth, and ye other rulers of them that dwell in the nether world, vouchsafe, I implore, that

² ἀνακαλεῖσθαι M, ἀνακαλεῖσθε recc.

⁴ βάρβαρα σαφηνῇ : Headlam.

³ μοι M, μου recc.

⁵ βάγματα : Dindorf.

- δαίμονα μεγαυχῇ¹
 ἰόντ' αἰνέσατ' ἐκ δόμων,
 Περσῶν Σουσιγενῇ θεόν·
 645 πέμπετε² δ' ἄνω οἶον οὐπω
 Περσὶς αἶ' ἐκάλυψεν.
 ἦ φίλος ἀνὴρ,³ φίλος⁴ ὄχθος· [στρ. β.
 φίλα γὰρ κέκευθεν ἥθη.
 Ἄιδωνεύς δ' ἀναπομ-
 650 πὸς ἀνείης,⁵ Ἄιδωνεύς,
 θεῖον ἀνάκτορα Δαριάνα.⁶ ἡέ.
 οὐδέ⁷ γὰρ ἄνδρας ποτ' ἀπώλλυ⁸ [ἀντ. β.
 πολεμοφθόροισιν ἅταις,
 θεομήστωρ δ' ἐκυκλή-
 655 σκετο Πέρσαις, θεομήστωρ δ'
 ἔσκειν, ἐπεὶ στρατὸν εὖ ποδούχει.⁹ ἡέ.
 βαλὴν,¹⁰ ἀρχαῖος βαλὴν, [στρ. γ.
 ἴθι, ἰκοῦ·
 ἔλθ' ἐπ' ἄκρον κόρυμβον ὄχθου,
 660 κροκόβαπτον ποδὸς εὐμαριν αἰείρων,
 βασιλείου τιάρας¹¹
 φάλαρον πιφαύσκων.
 βάσκε πάτερ ἄκακε Δαριάν,¹² οἶ.
 ὅπως αἰανῇ κλύης¹³ [ἀντ. γ.
 665 νέα τ' ἄχῃ,
 δέσποτα δεσπότη φάνηθι.
 Στυγία γάρ τις ἐπ' ἀχλὺς πεπόταται·
 νεολαία¹⁴ γὰρ ἦδη
 670 κατὰ πᾶσ' ὄλωλεν.
 βάσκε πάτερ ἄκακε Δαριάν,¹⁵ οἶ.

¹ μεγαλυνῇ most mss., μεγαυχῇ Q.

² πέμπεται with ε over αι M.

THE PERSIANS

the glorious spirit, the god of the Persians, whom Susa bore, may quit his abode. Send to the upper world him whose like Persian earth ne'er yet entombed.

Dear indeed was the hero, dear is his barrow ; for dear are the qualities that lie buried there. O Aidoneus, Aidoneus, thou who conveyest shades to the upper air, suffer our divine lord Darian¹ to come forth ! Ohe !

For as he neither ever caused the destruction of his folk by insensate and ruinous wars, so he bore the name of divine counsellor to the Persians ; and a divine counsellor he was, since he piloted aright his men-at-arms. Ohe !

Soldan, our Soldan of old, come forth, draw nigh ! Rise to the barrow's topmost point, lift thy saffron-dyed sandal, display the crest of thy royal tiara ! Come forth, O father Darian, thou who didst work no ill ! Ho !

That thou mayest list to pitiable and unheard-of sorrows, O Lord of our lord, appear ! For a gloom, like that of Styx, hovereth over us, since all the youth of the land is now utterly destroyed. Come forth, O father Darian, thou who didst work no ill ! Ho !

¹ "Darian" is apparently a poetic variation for "Darius," whose name in Persian was Dārayavahus.

³ ἀνῆρ : Burney.

⁴ ἡ φίλος : N (Triclin.)

⁵ ἀν εἰη M : Brunck.

⁶ δαρείον οἶον ἀνακτα δαρείαν : θεῖον Schütz ; ἀνακτα Δαριᾶνα : Dindorf.

⁷ οὔτε : Dindorf.

⁸ ἀπὸλλυ M, ἀπώλλυ recc.

⁹ ὑπεδώκει M, εἰ ἐποδώκει m : Dindorf.

¹⁰ βαλλῆν M, βαλῆν recc.

¹¹ τήρας M, τιάρas recc.

¹² δαριανοί M, δαρείαν m.

¹³ καινά τε κλύης : Enger.

¹⁴ νεολαία with ε over αι M.

¹⁵ δαρείαν : cp. ll. 651, 663.

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ· [ἐπωδός.
 ὦ πολύκλαυτε φίλοισι θανών,
 675 ἥτι τάδε δυνάτα¹ δυνάτα
 περὶ τᾷ σᾷ δίδυμα διαγόνεν² ἀμάρτια³;†
 πᾶσαι γὰ τᾷδ⁴
 ἐξέφθινται⁵ τρίςκαλμοι
 680 νᾶες ἄναες ἄναες.

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ ΔΑΡΕΙΟΥ

ὦ πιστὰ πιστῶν ἡλικές θ' ἥβης ἐμῆς
 Πέρσαι γεραιοί, τίνα πόλις πονεῖ πόνον;
 στένει, κέκοπται, καὶ χαράσσεται πέδον.
 685 λεύσσω δ' ἄκοιτιν τὴν ἐμὴν τάφου πέλας
 ταρβῶ, χοᾶς δὲ πρευμαμένης ἐδεξάμην.
 ὑμεῖς δὲ θρηγεῖτ' ἐγγὺς ἐστῶτες τάφου
 καὶ ψυχαγωγοῖς ὀρθιάζοντες⁶ γόοις
 οἰκτρῶς καλεῖσθέ⁷ μ'. ἐστὶ δ' οὐκ εὐέξοδον,
 690 ἄλλως τε πάντως χοῖ κατὰ χθονὸς θεοὶ
 λαβεῖν ἀμείνους εἰσὶν ἢ μεθιέναι.
 ὅμως δ' ἐκείνοις ἐνδυναστεύσας ἐγὼ
 ἤκω· τάχυνε⁸ δ', ὡς ἀμεμπτος ὦ χρόνου.
 τί⁹ ἐστὶ Πέρσαις νεοχμὸν ἐμβριθὲς κακόν;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

σέβομαι μὲν προσιδέσθαι, [στρ.
 695 σέβομαι δ' ἀντία λέξαι
 σέθεν ἀρχαίω περὶ τάρβει.

¹ δυνάτα M, δυνάστα recc. ² διαγόνεν M, διάγοιεν recc.

³ ἀμάρτια M, δ' ἀμάρτια m (?) recc.

⁴ πᾶσαν γὰν τάνδε M, πᾶσα γὰ τᾷδε m recc., πᾶσαι A¹V.

⁵ ἐξέφθιντ' αἱ M, οι over v m, ἐξέφθινθ' and ἐξέφθιντ' αἱ recc. : Blomfield.

THE PERSIANS

Alas, alas! O thou whose death thy friends
bewailed with bitter tears, wherefore, my King, my
King . . . ? Our land hath lost all its three-tiered
galleys, ships that are no more, no more.

[*The ghost of Darius rises from his tomb*

GHOST OF DARIUS

O Trusty of the Trusty, compeers of my youth,
ye aged Persians, with what travail travailth the
State? The earth groans and is furrowed by the
stamp of men. As I behold my consort hard by my
tomb I feel alarm, and I accept her libations in
kindly mood; while ye, standing near my tomb,
make lament, and with shrilling cries that summon
the spirits of the dead, invoke me piteously. Not
easy is the path from out the tomb; for this cause
above all—that the gods beneath the earth are readier
to seize than to release. Nevertheless, for that I
have obtained dominion among them, I am come.
But speed ye, that I may be void of blame as to the
time of my sojourn. What is this unexpected ill
that weighs the Persians down?

CHORUS

I shrink in awe from gazing upon thee, I shrink in
awe from speaking in thy presence by reason of
mine old-time dread of thee.

⁶ ῥοδιάζοντες M rec., ὀρθρίζοντες Ven.³, ὀρθιάζοντες FN.

⁷ καλεῖσθαι M, καλεῖσθε rec.

⁸ τάχυνε MPγρ, τάχυνα m rec.

⁹ τί M, τί δ' rec.

AESCHYLUS

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ κάτωθεν ἦλθον σοῖς γόοις πεπεισμένος,
μή τι μακιστῆρα μῦθον, ἀλλὰ σύντομον λέγων
εἶπὲ καὶ πέραινε πάντα, τὴν ἐμὴν αἰδῶ μεθείς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

700 δέμαί¹ μὲν χαρίσασθαι, [ἀντ.
δέμαί δ' ἀντία φάσθαι,
λέξας δύσλεκτα φίλοισιν.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ δέος παλαιὸν σοὶ φρενῶν ἀνθίσταται,
τῶν ἐμῶν λέκτρων γεραῖα ξύννομ' εὐγενὲς γύναι,
705 κλαυμάτων λήξασα τῶνδε καὶ γόων σαφές τί μοι
λέξον. ἀνθρώπειά δ' ἄν τοι πῆματ' ἄν τύχοι βροτοῖς.
πολλὰ μὲν γὰρ ἐκ θαλάσσης, πολλὰ δ' ἐκ χέρσου
κακὰ
γίγνεται² θνητοῖς, ὃ μᾶσσων βίोटος ἦν ταθῇ πρόσω.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ὦ βροτῶν πάντων ὑπερσχῶν ὄλβον εὐτυχεῖ πότμω,³
710 ὥς ἔως τ' ἔλευσσεσ ἀνγὰς ἡλίου ζηλωτὸς ὢν
βίотον εὐαίωνα Πέρσαις ὥς θεὸς διήγαγες,
νῦν τέ σε ζηλῶ θανόντα, πρὶν κακῶν ἰδεῖν βάθος.
πάντα γάρ, Δαρεῖ', ἀκούσῃ μῦθον ἐν βραχεὶ χρόνῳ⁴.
διαπεπόρθηται τὰ Περσῶν πράγμαθ', ὥς εἶπεῖν ἔπος.⁵

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

715 τίνι τρόπῳ; λοιμοῦ τις ἦλθε σκηπτὸς ἢ στάσις
πόλει;

¹ δέομαι M recc., δίομαι recc. : Herm. ² γίνεται : Schütz.

³ εὐτυχεῖ with εἰ changed to ἦ M, πότμον M, εὐτυχέι πότμω recc.

THE PERSIANS

DARIUS

Nay, but since, in compliance with thy moanings,
I am come from the world below, lay aside thine
awe of me, make thy tale not long, but brief, speak
out and deliver thy whole story to its end.

CHORUS

I fear to do thy pleasure, I fear to speak in thy
presence and deliver unto those I love news hard
to utter.

DARIUS

Nay, since the old-accustomed dread in thy mind
restrains thee, do thou, high-born dame, venerable
partner of my bed, cease thy tears and laments,
and tell me a plain tale. Afflictions appointed unto
human life must, we know, befall mankind. For
many calamities from out the sea, many from out
the land, arise to mortal men if their span of life
be extended far.

ATOSSA

O thou who in prosperity didst surpass all mortal
men by thy happy destiny, since, so long as thou didst
gaze upon the beams of the sun, thou didst pass a life
of felicity, envied of all, in Persian eyes a god, so
now too I count thee happy in dying ere thou hast
beheld the depth of our calamities. The whole tale,
O Darius, thou shalt hear in brief space of time.
The power of Persia is ruined well-nigh utterly.

DARIUS

In what wise? Came there some stroke of
pestilence or strife of faction upon the State?

⁴ χρόνῳ M, λόγῳ recc.

⁵ ἔπος εἰπεῖν M, εἰπεῖν ἔπος recc.

AESCHYLUS

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

οὐδαμῶς· ἀλλ' ἀμφ' Ἀθήνας πᾶς κατέφθαρται
στρατός.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

τίς δ' ἐμῶν ἐκείσε παίδων ἐστρατηλάτει; φράσον.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

θούριος Ξέρξης, κενώσας πᾶσαν ἡπείρου πλάκα.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

πεζὸς ἢ ναύτης δὲ πείραν τήνδ' ἐμώρανεν τάλας;

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

720 ἀμφότερα· διπλοῦν μέτωπον ἦν δυοῖν¹ στρατευμά-
τοι.²

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

πῶς δὲ καὶ στρατὸς τοσόσδε³ πεζὸς ἤνυσεν⁴ περᾶν;

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

μηχαναῖς ἔξευξεν Ἑλλης πορθμόν, ὥστ' ἔχειν
πόρον.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

καὶ τόδ' ἐξέπραξεν, ὥστε Βόσπορον κληῖσαι⁵ μέγαν;

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ἔχει· γνώμης δέ πού τις δαιμόνων ξυνήψατο.

¹ διοῖν with υ over οι M.

² στρατηλάτοι M, στρατευμάτοι recc.

THE PERSIANS

ATOSSA

Neither ; but near Athens our whole host has been brought to ruin.

DARIUS

Tell me, what son of mine led thither our embattled host ?

ATOSSA

Impetuous Xerxes, unpeopling the whole surface of the continent.

DARIUS

Was it by land or sea that he made this mad emprise, the reckless man ?

ATOSSA

By both. There was a twofold front of double armament.

DARIUS

But how was it that so vast a land force won a passage to the farther shore ?

ATOSSA

By artful contrivances he yoked the firth of Helle so as to gain a passage.

DARIUS

What ! Did he succeed in closing the mighty Bosphorus ?

ATOSSA

Even so. Some one of the powers divine, methinks, assisted him in his intent.

³ τὸ σσοςδε M.

⁵ κληῖσαι M, ei over ηi m.

⁴ ἤνυσεν M.

⁶ ὡδ' M, ὡς δ' m.

AESCHYLUS

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

725 φεῦ, μέγας τις ἦλθε δαίμων, ὥστε μὴ φρονεῖν καλῶς.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ὥς ἰδεῖν τέλος πάρεστιν οἶον ἦνυσεν¹ κακόν.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

καὶ τί δὴ πράξασιν αὐτοῖς ὦδ' ἐπιστενάζετε;

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ναυτικὸς στρατὸς κακωθεὶς πεζὸν ὤλεσε στρατόν.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

ὦδε παμπήδην δὲ λαὸς πᾶς κατέφθαρται δορί;

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

730 πρὸς τὰδ' ὥς Σούσων² μὲν ἄστνυ πᾶν κενανδρίαν
στένει.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

ὦ πόποι κεδνῆς ἀρωγῆς κάπικουρίας στρατοῦ.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

Βακτρίων δ' ἔρρει πανώλης δῆμος, οὐδέ τις γέρων.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

ὦ μέλεος, οἶαν ἄρ' ἦβην ξυμμάχων ἀπώλεσεν.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

μονάδα δὲ Ξέρξην ἔρημόν φασιν οὐ πολλῶν μέτα—

¹ ἦνυσεν M.

² οὐσῶν M, σούσων m.

THE PERSIANS

DARIUS

Alas ! 'Twas some mighty power that came upon him so that he lost his sober judgment.

ATOSSA

Aye, since by the issue 'tis plain how great the ruin he has wrought.

DARIUS

And how then did they fare that ye thus make lament over them ?

ATOSSA

Disaster to the naval force brought ruin to the force on land.

DARIUS

And has the whole army thus utterly perished by the spear ?

ATOSSA

Aye, so that for this reason the whole city of Susa groans at its desolation.

DARIUS

Alas for the loss of our warriors' goodly force and defence !

ATOSSA

And the host of the Bactrians is lost, wholly destroyed—not even an old man is left.

DARIUS

Unhappy man, since he has brought to ruin such goodly youth of our allies.

ATOSSA

But Xerxes, alone and forlorn, with scanty train, they say—

AESCHYLUS

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

735 πῶς τε δὴ καὶ ποῖ τελευτᾶν; ἔστι τις σωτηρία;

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ἄσμενον μολεῖν γέφυραν γαῖν¹ δυοῖν² ζευκτηρίαν.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

καὶ πρὸς ἥπειρον σεσῶσθαι τήνδε, τοῦτ' ἐτήτυμον;

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ναί· λόγος κρατεῖ σαφήνῃς τοῦτό γ', οὐδ'³ ἔνι
στάσις.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

φεῦ, ταχεῖά γ' ἦλθε χρησμῶν πράξις, ἐς δὲ παῖδ'
ἔμδν

740 Ζεὺς ἀπέσκηψεν⁴ τελευτὴν θεσφάτων· ἐγὼ δέ που
διὰ μακροῦ χρόνου τάδ' ἠὔχουν ἐκτελευτήσιν θεοῦς·
ἀλλ' ὅταν σπεύδῃ τις αὐτός, χῶ θεὸς συνάπτεται.
νῦν κακῶν ἔοικε πηγὴ πᾶσιν ἠὺρήσθαι⁵ φίλοις.
παῖς δ' ἐμὸς τάδ' οὐ κατειδὼς ἤνυσεν⁶ νέφθρασει.
745 ὅστις Ἑλλήσποντον ἱρὸν δοῦλον ὥς δεσμώμασιν
ἤλπισε σχήσειν ρέοντα, Βόσπορον ῥόον θεοῦ·
καὶ πόρον μετερρύθμιζε, καὶ πέδαις σφυρηλάτοις
περιβαλὼν πολλὴν κέλευθον ἤνυσεν⁶ πολλῶ στρατῶ,
θνητὸς ὢν θεῶν τε' πάντων ᾤετ', οὐκ εὐβουλία,

¹ ἐν : γαῖν Butler (from Askew's margin).

² δαιοῖν with υ over οι M.

³ γ' οὐκ M rec., οὐκ rec. : Campbell.

⁴ ἀπέσκηψεν MA, ἐπέσκηψεν rec.

⁵ εὐρήσθαι : Kirchhoff.

⁶ ἤνυσεν M.

THE PERSIANS

DARIUS

Met his end, how, pray, and where? Of his safety is there any hope?

ATOSSA

Reached to his joy the bridge yoking the two continents.

DARIUS

And reached our continent in safety? Is this certain?

ATOSSA

Aye; a well proved report establishes this at least. Doubt there is none.

DARIUS

Alas! Swift indeed has come the fulfilment of the oracles, and 'tis my son upon whom Zeus hath caused their issue to descend. Yet I have been resting confident that, only after long lapse of time, the gods would in some way bring them to accomplishment; nevertheless, when man hasteneth to his own undoing, God too taketh part with him. A fountain of misfortune has now, methinks, been discovered for all I love. A son of mine it was who, in his ignorance, brought these things to pass through youthful recklessness; for he conceived the hope that he could by shackles, as if it were a slave, restrain the current of the sacred Hellespont, the Bosporus, a stream divine; set himself to fashion a roadway of a new order, and, by casting upon it hammer-wrought fetters, made a spacious causeway for his mighty host. Mortal though he was, he thought in his folly that he would gain the mastery

⁷ θεῶν δὲ Μ, θεῶν τε rec.

750 καὶ Ποσειδῶνος κρατήσῃν. πῶς τὰδ' οὐ νόσος¹
 φρενῶν
 εἶχε παῖδ' ἐμόν; δέδοικα μὴ πολὺς πλούτου πόνος
 οὐμὸς ἀνθρώποις γένηται τοῦ φθάσαντος ἀρπαγῇ.²

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

ταῦτά τοι³ κακοῖς ὁμιλῶν ἀνδράσιν διδάσκεται
 θούριος Ξέρξης· λέγουσι δ' ὥς σὺ μὲν μέγαν⁴ τέκνοις
 755 πλούτον ἐκτήσῃ ξὺν αἰχμῇ, τὸν δ' ἀνανδρίας ὕπο
 ἔνδον αἰχμαΐζειν, πατρῶον δ' ὄλβον οὐδὲν αὐξάνειν.
 τοιάδ' ἐξ ἀνδρῶν ὀνειδίη πολλάκις κλύων κακῶν
 τήνδ' ἐβούλευσεν κέλευθον καὶ στράτευμ' ἐφ'
 Ἑλλάδα.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

τοιγάρ σφιν ἔργον ἐστὶν ἐξειργασμένον
 760 μέγιστον, αἰμίμηστον, οἶον οὐδέπω
 τόδ' ἄστυ Σούσων ἐξεκείνωσεν πεσόν,
 ἐξ οὔτε τιμὴν Ζεὺς ἀναξ τήνδ' ὤπασεν,
 ἐν' ἄνδρ' ἀπάσης Ἀσίδος μηλοτρόφου
 ταγεῖν, ἔχοντα σκῆπτρον εὐθυντήριον.
 765 Μῆδος γὰρ ἦν⁵ ὁ πρῶτος ἡγεμῶν στρατοῦ·
 ἄλλος δ' ἐκείνου παῖς τόδ' ἔργον ἤνυσεν·
 φρένες γὰρ αὐτοῦ θυμὸν ψακοστροφούν.⁶
 τρίτος δ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ Κύρος, εὐδαίμων ἀνὴρ,
 ἄρξας ἔθηκε πᾶσιν εἰρήνην φίλοις·
 770 Λυδῶν δὲ λαὸν καὶ Φρυγῶν ἐκτήσατο,
 Ἴωνίαν τε πᾶσαν ἤλασεν βίᾳ.
 θεὸς γὰρ οὐκ ἤχθηρεν, ὥς εὐφρων ἔφν.
 Κύρου δὲ παῖς τέταρτος ἠϋθινε⁷ στρατόν.

¹ νόσος M, νόσος m¹.

³ τοῖς; Dindorf.

² ἀρπαγῇ changed to ἀρπαγῇ M.

⁴ μέγα M, μέγαν recc.

THE PERSIANS

over all the gods, aye even over Poseidon. Must this not have been a distemper of the soul that possessed my son? I fear me lest the plenteous treasure amassed by my toil may become the prey of the spoiler.

ATOSSA

This lesson impetuous Xerxes learned by converse with the vile. For they kept ever telling him that, whereas thou by thy spear didst win plenteous treasure for thy children, he, on his part, through lack of manly spirit, played the warrior at home and made no enlargement of his father's wealth. Hearing such taunts many a time and oft from evil counsellors he planned this expedition and armament against Hellas.

DARIUS

Therefore a calamity most evil and past all forgetting has been wrought by him to its accomplishment; a calamity such as never yet befell this city of Susa to its desolation since our Lord Zeus first ordained this high estate that one ruler should bear sway over all Asia with its flocks and wield the sceptre of its government. For Medus was first to be the leader of its host; and another, his son, completed his work since his soul obeyed the direction of wise thoughts. Third, after him, Cyrus, blest in his fortune, came to the throne and established peace for all his people. The Lydians and Phrygians he won to his rule, and the whole of Ionia he subdued by force; for the gods hated him not, since he was right-minded. Fourth in suc-

⁵ ἦν γὰρ M, γὰρ ἦν m.

⁶ οἰακοστρόφουν : Porson.

⁷ ἦθυνε changed to ἔθυνε M : Brunck.

πέμπτος δὲ Μάρδος¹ ἦρξεν, αἰσχύνῃ πάτρα²
 775 θρόνοισι τ' ἀρχαίοισι· τὸν δὲ σὺν δόλῳ
 Ἄρταφρένης ἔκτεινεν ἐσθλὸς ἐν δόμοις,
 ξὺν ἀνδράσιν φίλοισιν, οἷς τόδ' ἦν χρέος.
 [ἔκτος δὲ Μάραφτις, ἔβδομος δ' Ἄρταφρένης.]³
 καὶ γὰρ πάλου τ'⁴ ἔκυρσα τοῦπερ ἤθελον,⁵
 780 κάπεστράτευσα πολλὰ σὺν πολλῶ⁶ στρατῶ·
 ἀλλ' οὐ κακὸν τοσόνδε προσέβαλον πόλει.
 Ξέρξης δ' ἐμὸς παῖς ὢν νέος⁸ νέα φρονεῖ,
 κοῦ μνημονεύει τὰς ἐμὰς ἐπιστολάς·
 εὖ γὰρ σαφῶς τόδ' ἴστ', ἐμοὶ ξυνήλικες,
 785 ἅπαντες ἡμεῖς, οἳ κράτη τὰδ' ἔσχομεν,
 οὐκ ἂν φανεῖμεν πῆματ' ἔρξαντες τόσα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί οὖν, ἄναξ Δαρεῖε, ποῖ καταστρέφεις
 λόγων τελευτήν; πῶς ἂν ἐκ τούτων ἔτι
 πράσσοιμεν ὡς ἄριστα Περσικὸς λεώς;

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

790 εἰ μὴ στρατεύοισθ' ἐς τὸν Ἑλλήνων τόπον,
 μηδ' εἰ στράτευμα πλεῖον ἢ τὸ Μηδικόν.
 αὐτὴ γὰρ ἡ γῆ ξύμμαχος κείνοις πέλει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πῶς τοῦτ' ἔλεξας, τίνι τρόπῳ δὲ συμμαχεῖ;

¹ δ' ἐμάρδος M, with *is* over *os* m, δὲ μάρδος recc.

² πάτρην M, with *a* over *η* m.

³ Rejected by Schütz. ἔβδομος M, ἔβδομος δ' recc.

⁴ δ' M, τ' recc.

⁵ δ' ἔκυρσα τοῦπερ ἤθελον πάλου Fgr.

⁶ πολλὰς σὺν πολῶ M (πολλῶ m¹).

⁷ προσέβαλον with *λ* added over *λ* M.

⁸ νέος ἐὼν M, νέος ὢν FN, ὢν νέος recc.

THE PERSIANS

cession, the son of Cyrus ruled the host. Fifth in the list, Mardus came to power, a disgrace to his native land and to the ancient throne; but he was slain in his palace by the guile of gallant Artaphrenes, with the help of friends whose part this was. [Sixth came Maraphis, and seventh Artaphrenes.¹] And I in turn attained the lot I craved, and many a campaign I made with a goodly host: but disaster so dire as this I brought not upon the State. But Xerxes my son, youth that he is, has the mind of youth and remembers not my injunctions. Be very sure of this, ye compeers of my age: all of us who have held this sovereign power cannot be shown to have wrought ruin so great as this.

CHORUS

What then, O King Darius? What is the goal toward which thou dost direct the issue of thy speech? How, after this reverse, may we, the people of Persia, prosper best in time to come?

DARIUS

If ye take not the field against the Hellenes' land, even if the forces of the Medes outnumber theirs. The land itself is their ally.

CHORUS

How meanest thou this? In what way "their ally"?

¹ This interpolated or corrupt verse possibly comes from a variant list of the conspirators against the Smerdis (in l. 774 called Mardus), whom the Magian rebels planned to put in the place of the real prince of that name, who was slain by his brother Cambyzes. The name Maraphis does not occur elsewhere in connection with this event, and neither he nor Artaphrenes was ever king. Herodotus names Intaphernes as the chief conspirator against the false Smerdis.

AESCHYLUS

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

κτείνουσα λιμῶ τοὺς ὑπερπόλλους¹ ἄγαν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

795 ἄλλ' εὐσταλῇ² τοι λεκτὸν ἀροῦμεν στόλον.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

ἄλλ' οὐδ' ὁ μείνας νῦν ἐν Ἑλλάδος τόποις³
στρατὸς κυρήσει νοστήμου σωτηρίας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ πᾶν στράτευμα βαρβάρων
περᾶ τὸν Ἑλλης πορθμὸν Εὐρώπης ἄπο;

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

800 παῖροι γε πολλῶν, εἴ τι πιστεῦσαι θεῶν
χρὴ θεσφάτοισιν, ἐς τὰ νῦν πεπραγμένα
βλέψαντα· συμβαίνει γὰρ οὐ τὰ μὲν, τὰ δ' οὔ.
κεῖπερ τάδ' ἐστί, πλήθος ἔκκριτον στρατοῦ
λείπει κεναῖσιν ἐλπίσιν πεπεισμένος.
805 μίμνουσι δ' ἔνθα πεδίον Ἀσωπὸς ῥοαῖς
ἄρδει, φίλον⁴ πᾶσμα Βοιωτῶν χθονί.
οὐ σφιν κακῶν ὕψιστ' ἐπαμμένει⁵ παθεῖν,
ὑβρεως ἄποινα καθέων φρονημάτων.
οἱ γῆν μολόντες Ἑλλάδ' οὐ θεῶν βρέτη
810 ἡδοῦντο συλᾶν οὐδέ πιμπράναι⁶ νεώς.
βωμοὶ δ' αἰστοί, δαιμόνων⁷ θ' ἰδρύματα

¹ ὑπερπόλλους M, ὑπερπόλους m, ὑπερκόπους recc.
² εὐσταλῇ M, εὐσταλῇ recc. ³ τρόποις M, τόποις recc.
⁴ φίλος M, φίλον recc.
⁵ ὕψιστε (with α over ε m) παμμένει M.

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DARIUS

It wastes with famine an over-numerous foe.

CHORUS

But we shall dispatch a force of picked and easily managed troops.

DARIUS

But not even the host that now remains in Hellas shall win return to safety.

CHORUS

How sayest thou? Shall not the whole army of the barbarians cross from Europe over Helle's firth?

DARIUS

Few indeed out of many, if, having beheld what has now been brought to pass, it is right to put any faith in the oracles of Heaven; for they have fulfilment—not some only, while others fail. And if this be truth, it is through persuasion of vain hopes that he is leaving behind a body of picked troops. They are now tarrying where the plain is watered by the stream of Asopus that gives kindly enrichment to Boeotia's fields. Here it awaits them to suffer their crowning disaster in requital for their presumptuous pride and impious thoughts. For, on reaching the land of Hellas, restrained by no religious awe, they ravaged the images of the gods and gave their temples to the flames. Altars have been destroyed, statues of the gods have been over-

⁶ *πιπράναι* M, with *μ* added m.

⁷ *δαιμόνων* M, *δαιμόνων θ'* recc.

- 815 πρόρριζα φύρδην ἐξανέστραπται βάθρων.
 τοιγὰρ κακῶς δράσαντες οὐκ ἐλάσσονα
 κρηνὶς ἀπέσβηκ', ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἐκπιδύεται.¹
 τόσος γὰρ ἔσται πέλανος αἵματοςφαγῆς²
 πρὸς γῇ Πλαταιῶν Δωρίδος³ λόγχης ὑπο-
 θίνες νεκρῶν δὲ καὶ τριτοσπόρῳ γονῇ
 820 ἄφωνα σηματοῦσιν⁴ ὄμμασιν⁵ βροτῶν
 ὥς οὐχ ὑπέρφευ θνητὸν ὄντα χρή φρονεῖν.
 ὕβρις γὰρ ἐξανθοῦσ' ἐκάρπωσε στάχυν
 αἵτης, ὅθεν πάγκλαυτον ἐξαμὶ θεός.
 τοιαυτ' ὄρωντες τῶνδε τὰπιτίμια
 μέμνησθ' Ἀθηνῶν Ἑλλάδος τε, μηδέ τις
 825 ὑπερφρονήσας τὸν παρόντα δαίμονα
 ἄλλων ἐρασθεὶς ὄλβον ἐκχέη μέγαν.
 Ζεὺς τοι κολαστὴς τῶν ὑπερκόμπων ἄγαν
 φρονημάτων ἔπεστιν, εὐθνος βαρύς.
 πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐκείνον, σωφρονεῖν κεχρημένον,⁶
 830 πινύσκειτ' εὐλόγοισι νουθετήμασιν,
 λῆξαι θεοβλαβοῦνθ' ὑπερκόμπῳ θράσει.
 σὺ δ', ὦ γεραῖα μήτηρ ἢ Ξέρξου φίλη,
 ἐλθοῦσ' ἐς οἴκους κόσμον ὅστις εὐπρεπῆς
 λαβοῦσ' ὑπαντίαζε παιδί. πάντα γὰρ
 835 κακῶν ὑπ' ἄλγους λακίδες ἀμφὶ σώματι
 στημορραγοῦσι ποικίλων ἐσθμημάτων.
 ἀλλ' αὐτὸν εὐφρόνως σὺ πρᾶννον λόγοις·
 μόνης γάρ, οἶδα, σοῦ κλύων ἀνέξεται.
 ἐγὼ δ' ἄπειμι γῆς ὑπὸ ζόφον κάτω.
 840 ὑμεῖς δέ, πρέσβεις, χαίρετ', ἐν κακοῖς ὅμως

¹ κρηνὶς ὑπεστιν : Housman. ἐκπαιδεύεται : Schütz.

² αἵματοςφαγῆς P²N.

³ πλατέων δωρίδος M, πλαταιῶν δωρίδος Lips. 2.

⁴ σηματοῦσιν M, σηματοῦσιν recc.

⁵ ὄμμασι M.

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thrown from their bases in utter ruin and confusion. Wherefore having evil wrought, evil they suffer in no less measure ; and other evils are still in store : not yet quenched is the spring of their woes, but it still wells forth. For so great shall be the mass of clotted gore spilled by the Dorian lance upon Plataean soil that heaps of dead shall make known, even to the third generation, a voiceless record for the eyes of men that mortal man needs must not vaunt him overmuch. For presumptuous pride, when it has burgeoned, bears as its fruit a crop of calamity, whence it reaps a plenteous harvest of tears.

Mark that such are the penalties for deeds like these and hold Athens and Hellas in your memory. Let no one of you, through disdain of present fortune and lust for more, squander his abundant wealth. Zeus, of a truth, is a chastiser of overweening pride and corrects with heavy hand. Therefore, now that my son has been warned to prudence by the voice of God, do ye instruct him by admonitions of reason to cease from drawing on himself the punishment of Heaven by his vaunting rashness. And do thou, beloved and venerable mother of Xerxes, withdraw to the palace and fetch thence vesture such as is seemly for him, and prepare to meet thy son. For through grief at his misfortunes, the embroidered apparel that covered his person has been utterly rent into tattered shreds. Do thou soothe him with words of kindness ; for it is to thy voice alone, I know, that he will endure to listen. As for me, I depart to the darkness beneath the earth. Fare ye well, ye Elders, and albeit amid troubles give joyance

⁶ *κεχηρμένοι* MSS. : *κεχηρμένον* v.l. in schol. AP.

AESCHYLUS

ψυχῇ διδόντες ἡδονὴν καθ' ἡμέραν,
ὥς τοῖς θανούσι πλούτος οὐδὲν ὠφελεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἦ πολλὰ καὶ παρόντα καὶ μέλλοντ' ἔτι
ἤλγησ' ἀκούσας βαρβάρουσι πήματα.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ

845 ὦ δαῖμον, ὥς με πόλλ' ἐσέρχεται¹ κακὰ
ἄλγη, μάλιστα δ' ἥδε συμφορὰ δάκνει,
ἀτιμίαν γε παιδὸς ἀμφὶ σώματι
ἐσθημάτων κλύουσας, ἣ νιν ἀμπέχει.
850 ἄλλ' εἶμι, καὶ λαβοῦσα κόσμον ἐκ δόμων
ὑπαντιάζειν παιδί μου² πειράσσομαι.
οὐ γὰρ τὰ φίλτατ' ἐν κακοῖς προδώσομεν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ πόποι ἦ μεγάλας ἀγαθὰς τε πο- [στρ. α.
λισσονόμου βιοτᾶς ἐπεκύρσαμεν,
εἶθ' ὁ γηραιὸς³
855 πανταρκῆς ἀκάκας
ἄμαχος βασιλεὺς
ἰσόθεος Δαρεῖος ἄρχε χώρας.
πρῶτα μὲν εὐδοκίμους στρατιάς⁴ ἀπε- [ἀντ. α.
φαινόμεθ'⁵, ἥδ' ἐ νομίσματα⁶ πύργινα
860 πάντ' ἐπηύθυνε,⁷
νόστοι δ' ἐκ πολέμων
ἀπόνους ἀπαθείς
ἄνδρας⁸ εἶ πρᾶσσοντας ἄγον οἴκους.⁹

¹ εἰσέρχεται: Schütz.

² ἐμῷ παιδί M, παιδ(ι) ἐμῷ AQKL, παιδί γ' ἐμῷ PFN: Burges.

³ γεραιὸς M, γηραιὸς recc.

THE PERSIANS

to your souls while to-day is yours ; since to the dead wealth profiteth no jot.

[*The ghost of Darius descends*

CHORUS

I grieve as I hear the misfortunes manifold that are now, and are yet to be, the lot of the barbarians.

ATOSSA

O God ! What a host of cruel griefs assails me ! But most of all this sorrow wounds me—to hear of the shameful garb that clothes the person of my son. But I will away, and when I have brought seemly raiment from the palace, I will make trial to meet my son ; for I will not forsake in his affliction him I love so well.

[*Exit*

CHORUS

Ah me, in sooth it was a glorious and goodly life under civil government that we enjoyed so long as our aged and all-powerful King, who worked no ill and who loved not war, god-like Darius, ruled the realm.

In the first place we showed to the world armies worthy of our fame, and civil institutions, like towers in strength, regulated all the State ; and our return from war brought back our men, unworn and scatheless, to happy homes.

⁴ εὐδοκίμον στρατιᾶς : Wellauer.

⁵ ἀποφαίνόμε(σ)θ' M recc., ἀπεφαίνόμεθ' Lips. 2 Cant. 2.

⁶ νομίματα M, νόμιμα τὰ recc., νομισματα A¹.

⁷ ἐπέθνον with υ before θ deleted M, ἐπέθνον NK, ἐπέθνον recc. : ἐπηθύνον Weil (as 1st sing.), ἐπέθνε Bothe.

⁸ <ἀνέρας> Wecklein.

⁹ ἐς οἴκους : Porson.

- 865 ὄσας δ' εἴλε πόλεις πόρον [στρ. β.
οὐ διαβάς Ἄλως ποταμοῖο,
οὐδ' ἁφ' ἐστίας συθείς,²
οἶαι Στρυμονίου πελά-
γους Ἀχελώιδες εἰσὶ πάροικοι
870 Θρηκίων³ ἐπαύλων,
λίμνας τ' ἔκτοθεν αἰ κατὰ [ἀντ. β.
χέρσον ἐληλαμένοι πέρι πύργον
τοῦδ' ἀνακτος αἶον,
875 Ἕλλας τ'⁴ ἀμφὶ πόρον πλατὺν
εὐχόμεναι, μυχία τε Προποντίς,
καὶ στόμωμα Πόντον·
νᾶσοί θ' αἰ κατὰ πρῶν' [στρ. γ.
880 ἄλιον περικλυστοὶ
τᾶδε γὰ προσήμεναι
οἷα⁵ Λέσβος ἐλαι-
όφυτός τε Σάμος, Χίος
ἠδὲ Πάρος, Νάξος, Μύκο-
885 νος, Τήνῳ τε συνάπτουσ'
Ἄνδρος⁶ ἀγχιγείτων,
καὶ τὰς ἀγχιάλους [ἀντ. γ.
ἐκράτνε μεσάκτους,⁷
890 Λῆμνον, Ἰκάρου θ' ἔδος,
καὶ Ῥόδον ἠδὲ Κνίδον
Κυπρίας τε πόλεις, Πάφον,
ἠδὲ Σόλους, Σαλαμῖνά τε,
895 τὰς νῦν ματρόπολιν⁸ τῶνδ'
αἰτία στεναγμῶν.⁹

¹ ποταμοῦ δ' M, ποταμοῦ οὐδ' recc. : Burney.
² συνθείς M, συθείς recc. ³ θρηκίων M, θρηκίων recc.
⁴ Ἕλλας M, ἔλλας τ' recc.

THE PERSIANS

And what a number of cities he captured !—without crossing the stream of Halys or even stirring from his own hearth : such as the Acheloan¹ cities on the Strymonian sea that neighbours the Thracian settlements.

And those outside the mere, the cities on the mainland, compassed with embattled walls, obeyed him as their king ; those, too, that exult in their site on both sides of the broad stream of Helle ; and Propontis, deeply-recessed, and the outlet of Pontus.

The sea-washed isles, also, off the projecting arm of the sea, lying close to this our land, such as Lesbos, and olive-planted Samos, Chios and Paros, Naxos, Myconos, and Andros that as a close neighbour lies adjacent to Tenos.

And he held under his sway the sea-girt isles midway between the continents, Lemnos, and the settlement of Icarus, and Rhodes, and Cnidos, and the Cyprian cities Paphos, Soli, and Salamis, whose mother-city is now the cause of our lament.

¹ If "Acheloan" is used, as some report, only of fresh water, the poet may have in mind the pile-dwellings of the Paeonians on Lake Prasias (mentioned by Herodotus, v. 16) ; if "Acheloan" includes also salt water, the reference may be to the islands off Thrace—Imbros, Thasos, and Samothrace.

⁵ οἷα M, οἷα V.

⁶ ἀνδρῶν M, with ὅς over ὦν m.

⁷ μεσάγκτους M, μεσάκτους recc.

⁸ τὰς . . . ματροπόλεις M, τὰς . . . ματρόπολις recc.

⁹ στεναγμάτων M, στεναγμῶν N.

- καὶ τὰς εὐκτεάνους¹ κατὰ [ἐπωδός.
 κλῆρον Ἰαόνιον² πολυάνδρους
 900 Ἑλλάνων ἐκράτει³ σφετέραις φρεσίν.
 ἀκάματον δὲ παρῆν σθένος
 ἀνδρῶν τευχηστήρων
 παμμίκτων τ' ἐπικούρων.
 νῦν δ' οὐκ ἀμφιλόγως
 905 θεότρεπτα⁴ τὰδ' αὖ
 φέρομεν πολέμοισι
 δμαθέντες μεγάλως
 πλαγαῖσι ποντίαισιν.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

- ἰώ,
 δύστηνος ἐγὼ στυγεράς μοίρας
 910 τῇσδε κυρήσας ἀτεκμαρτοτάτης,
 ὡς ὠμοφρόνως δαίμων ἐνέβη
 Περσῶν γενεᾷ· τί πάθω πλήμων;
 λέλυται γὰρ ἐμοὶ γυῖων ῥώμη
 τήνδ' ἡλικίαν ἐσιδόντ' ἀστῶν.
 915 εἴθ' ὄφελεν, Ζεῦ, καὶ μετ' ἀνδρῶν
 τῶν οἰχομένων
 θανάτου κατὰ μοῖρα καλύψαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- ὄτοτοῖ,⁵ βασιλεῦ,⁶ στρατιᾶς ἀγαθῆς
 καὶ περσονόμου τιμῆς μεγάλης,
 920 κόσμου τ' ἀνδρῶν,
 οὓς νῦν δαίμων ἐπέκειρεν.
 γὰ δ' αἰάζει τὰν ἐγγαίαν [προωδός.
 ἦβαν Ξέρξῃ κταμέναν Ἄιδου

¹ εὐκταϊάνους M, εὐκτεάνους recc.

² Ἰόνιον : Herm.

THE PERSIANS

And the rich and populous cities of the Hellenes in the Ionian demesne he controlled by his own will; and at his command he had an unwearied strength of men-at-arms and of allies from every nation. But now, worsted signally in war through disasters on the sea, we suffer in no doubtful wise this change of fortune from the hand of God.

[*Enter Xerxes in tattered robes, and attended by a scanty retinue*

XERXES

Alas, wretched am I that I have encountered this cruel doom that gave no faintest sign it could befall! In what savage mood hath Fortune trampled upon the Persian race? What misery is yet in store for me, unhappy wretch? The strength of my limbs is loosened as I behold this aged company of burghers. Ah, Zeus, would that the doom of death had buried me, too, together with the men who are laid low!

CHORUS

Alack, O King, for our gallant armament, for the high honour of Persia's rule, and for the fair array of men now cut off by Fate!

The land bewaileth her native youth, slaughtered for Xerxes, who hath gorged the realm of Death

³ ἐκράτυνε : Herm.

⁵ ὁτοτοτοῖ M, ὁτοτοῖ AN.

⁴ θεόπρεπτα M, θεότρεπτα recc.

⁶ βασιλεὺς M, βασιλεῦ recc.

- 925 σάκτορι¹ Περσᾶν· ἄδοβάται² γὰρ
πολλοὶ φῶτες, χώρας ἄνθος,
τοξοδάμαντες, πάνυ ταρφύς τις³
μυριάς ἀνδρῶν, ἐξέφθινται.
ἄιαϊ αἰαῖ⁵ κεδνάς ἀλκᾶς.
930 Ἀσία δὲ χθών, βασιλεὺ γαίης,
αἰνῶς αἰνῶς
ἐπὶ γόνυ κέκλιται.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ὄδ' ἐγώ,⁶ οἰοῖ, αἰακτὸς [στρ. α.
μέλεος γέννα γὰρ τε πατρώα⁷
κακὸν ἄρ' ἐγενόμαν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 935 πρόσφθογγόν⁸ σοι νόστου τὰν
κακοφάτιδα βοάν,
κακομέλετον ἰὰν
Μαριανδυνοῦ θρηνητῆρος
πέμψω πέμψω,
940 πολὺδακρυν ἰαχάν.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ἔετ' αἰανῇ [καὶ]⁹ πάνδυρτον¹⁰ [ἀντ. α.
δύσθροον αὐδάν. δαίμων γὰρ ὄδ' αὖ
μετάτροπος ἐπ' ἐμοί.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 945 ἦσω τοι τὰν¹¹ πάνδυρτον,
σὰ πάθη¹² τε σέβων¹³

¹ σάκτορι M, with ι added m.

² ἀγδαβάται M, ἀγδοβάται R: Herm.

³ γὰρ φύσις: ταρφύς τις Franz.

⁴ l. 928 given to Xerxes in M: Meineke.

⁵ αἰ αἰ M, αἰ αἰ αἰ αἰ recc.

⁶ ἐγών: Dindorf.

THE PERSIANS

with Persian slain. Full many warriors, masters of the bow, our country's pride, a dense multitude of men, have perished and gone to the house of Death. Alas, alas, for our trusty defence! The land of Asia, O sovereign of the realm, hath piteously, aye piteously, been bowed to her knees.

XERXES

Behold me, alas, meet subject for your lamentation, in misery, born, it hath proved, a bane to my race and fatherland.

CHORUS

To hail thee on thy return home I will send forth the ill-omened cry of woe, the voice, versed in lamentation, of a Mariandynian¹ mourner, a wail fraught with many a tear.

XERXES

Utter a strain of lamentation, plaintive and discordant. For lo! now hath Fortune veered and turned against me.

CHORUS

Aye, I will utter the plaintive strain in commemoration of thy sufferings and of our strongly-manned

¹ The Mariandynians, a people of Asia Minor, were famous, as were the Mysians (l. 1054), for their dirges and mournful music.

⁷ πατρίᾳ M, etc., πατρίᾳ N.

⁸ προφθόγγου M, πρόσφθογγόν recc.

⁹ [καί] G. C. W. Schneider. ¹⁰ πανόδυτον : Blomfield.

¹¹ καὶ : τὰν Anon.

¹² λαοπαθῆ : Burney.

¹³ σεβίζων : Elmsley.

ἀλίτυπά τε βάρη,
πόλεως γέννας πενθητήρος·
κλάγξω¹ κλάγξω
δὲ² γόον ἀρίδακρυν.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

950 Ἰάνων γὰρ ἀπηύρα, [στρ. β.
Ἰάνων ναύφρακτος
Ἄρης ἑτεραλκῆς
νυχίαν πλάκα κερσάμενος
δυσδαίμονά τ' ἀκτάν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

955 οἰοιοῖ βόα καὶ πάντ' ἐκπεύθου.⁵—
ποῦ δὲ φίλων ἄλλος ὄχλος,
ποῦ δέ σοι παραστάται,
οἶος ἦν Φαρανδάκης,
Σούσας, Πελάγων, [καὶ]⁶ Δοτάμας, ἥδ' Ἀ-
960 γδαβάτας, Ψάμμης, Σουσιस्कάνης τ'
Ἀγβάτανα λιπών;

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ὄλοονς ἀπέλειπον [ἀντ. β.
Τυρίας ἐκ ναὸς
ἔρροντας ἐπ' ἀκταῖς
965 Σαλαμινιάσι⁸ στυφελοῦ
θείνοντας ἐπ' ἀκτᾶς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οἰοιοῖ, <βόα>⁹ ποῦ σοι¹⁰ Φαρνοῦχος
'Αριόμαρδός¹¹ τ' ἀγαθός,¹²

¹ < > Herm. ² δ' αὖ: Blaydes.

³ ll. 950-954 unassigned in M: Lachmann.

THE PERSIANS

ships smitten by the waves—the plaintive strain
of our land that mourns its sons. And I will cry
aloud a lamentation fraught with many a tear.

XERXES

Aye, for the Ionians, the Ionian warriors, embattled
with the bulwark of their ships, inclining to their
side the poise of war, despoiled us, reaping that
fatal sea and ill-starred shore.

CHORUS

Woe! woe! cry aloud and question as to the
whole disaster.—Where is the rest of the multitude
of thy comrades? Where are they who stood by
thy side, such as Pharandaces, Susas, Pelagon,
Dotamas, and Agdabatas, Psammis, and Susiscanes of
Agbatana?

XERXES

By the shores of Salamis, dashing against its
rugged strand, I left them, cast forth in death from
a Tyrian ship.

CHORUS

Woe! woe! cry aloud! Where is thy Phar-
nuchus, and Ariomardus the valiant? Where is

⁴ 1. 955 assigned to Xerxes in M: Lachmann.

⁵ ἐκπεύθοι M, ἐκπεύθου recc.

⁶ [καί] Rob.

⁷ ἀγαθάτας M, ἀγδαβάτας recc.

⁸ σαλαμινίῳ M: Herm.

⁹ <βόα> Herm.

¹⁰ ποῦ δέ σοι: Herm.

¹¹ κ' ἀριόμαρδος: Brunck.

¹² τ' ἀγαθός τ' M¹.

970 πού δέ Σευάλης ἀναξ,
ἦ Λίλαιος εὐπάτωρ,
Μέμφις, Θάρυβις, καὶ Μασίστρας,
Ἄρτεμβάρης τ' ἡδ' Ὑσταίχμας;
τάδε σ' ἐπανερόμαν.¹

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

975 ἰὼ ἰὼ μοί μοι [στρ. γ.
τὰς ὠγυγίους κατιδόντες
στυγνὰς Ἀθάνας πάντες ἐνὶ πιτύλῳ,
ἐῆ ἐή,² τλάμονες ἀσπαίρουσι χέρσῳ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

980 ἦ καὶ τὸν Περσᾶν αὐτοῦ
τὸν σὸν πιστὸν πάντ' ὀφθαλμὸν
μυρία μυρία πεμπαστὰν
Βατανώχου παῖδ' Ἀλπιστον

τοῦ Σησάμα τοῦ Μεγαβάτα,
Πάρθον τε μέγαν τ' Οἰβάρην³
ἔλιπες ἔλιπες;
985 ὦ ὦ <ὦ>⁴ δάων.⁵
Πέρσαις ἀγανοῖς κακὰ πρόκακα λέγεις.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

<ἰὼ ἰὼ> δῆτα [ἀντ. γ.
ἴνγγ' ἀγαθῶν ἐτάρων μοι [ὑπομιμνήσκεις]⁶
990 <κινεῖς>⁷ ἅλαστα στυγνὰ πρόκακα λέγων.
βοᾷ βοᾷ <μοι>⁸ μελέων ἐντοσθεν⁹ ἦτορ.

¹ ἐπανέρομαι: Wellauer after Brunck's ἐπανηρόμαν.

² ἐ ἐ M: ἐ ἐ ἐ (ἐ), ἐ ἐ ἐ (ἐ) recc.: Dindorf.

³ τοιβάρην τ' M, τ' οἰβάρην recc.

⁴ <ὦ> Dindorf.

⁵ δαῖων M.

THE PERSIANS

prince Seualces, or Lilaeus of noble lineage, Memphis, Tharybis and Masistras, Artembares and Hystaechmas? This I ask of thee.

XERXES

Woe, woe is me! They beheld hoar and hateful Athens and with one convulsive struggle (alas, alas!) poor wretches, they lie gasping on the shore.

CHORUS

Didst thou in very truth leave there thine Eye,¹ in all things trusty, that numbered tens upon tens of thousands of the Persians, Batanochus' son Alpistus . . . son of Sesames, Megabates' son, Parthos and mighty Oebares? Alas, alas, the unhappy men! Thou tellest of woe, surpassing woe, to noble Persians.

XERXES

In truth thou dost stir in me yearning for my gallant comrades when thou tellest of woe, surpassing woe, hateful and beyond all forgetting. My heart within me calleth aloud for the hapless ones.

¹ The Persian kings had in their service officers called their "Eyes" and "Ears," charged to make report of what they saw and heard.

⁶ *ὑγγά μοι* (om. V) *δῆτ' ἀγαθῶν ἐτάρων ὑπομ.* : Wilam.

⁷ *<κινεῖς>* Wilam. ⁸ *<μοι>* Dindorf. ⁹ *ἐνδοθεν* : Blomfield.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- καὶ μὴν ἄλλους¹ γε ποθοῦμεν,
 Μάρδων ἀνδρῶν μυριοταγὸν²
 Ξάνθιν³ ἄρειόν τ' Ἀγχάρην,
 995 Δαίξιν τ' ἥδ' Ἀρσάκην
 ἱππιάνакτας,
 Κηγδαδάταν καὶ Λυθίμναν
 Τόλμον τ' αἰχμᾶς ἀκόρεστον.
⁴ἔταφον ἔταφον,
 1000 οὐκ ἀμφὶ σκηναῖς
 τροχηλάτοισιν ὀπιθεν⁵ [δ⁶]⁶ ἐπομένους.⁷

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

βεβᾶσι γὰρ τοίπερ⁸ ἀγρέται⁹ στρατοῦ. [στρ. δ.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ

¹⁰βεβᾶσιν, οἷ, νώννυμοι.¹¹

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

¹²ἰὴ ἰή, ἰὼ ἰώ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 1005 ἰὼ ἰώ, δαίμονες,
 ἔθεθ' ἄελλπτον κακὸν
 διαπρέπον, οἷον δέδορκεν Ἄτα.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

πεπλήγμεθ' οἷα δι' αἰῶνος τύχα· [ἀντ. δ.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πεπλήγμεθ'· εὐδηλα γάρ·

¹ ἄλλο : Prien. ² μυριόταρχον with ν over τ M : Dindorf.
³ ξάνθην : Herm.

⁴ ll. 999-1001 given to Xerxes in mss. : Passow.

THE PERSIANS

CHORUS

And yet there are others too whom we miss—
Xanthis, commander of a myriad Mardian men,
and warlike Anchaes, Diaexis, too, and Arsaces,
captains of the horse, Cegdadatas and Lythimnas,
and Tolmus, insatiate of war. I marvel, that they
follow not in thy train about thy tented car.

XERXES

Aye, for gone are they who were leaders of the
host.

CHORUS

Gone, alas, ingloriously.

XERXES

Alas, alas !

CHORUS

Alas, alas, ye powers divine, ye have wrought us
ruin, all unexpected, unmistakable ruin like unto
the glance of Calamity.

XERXES

We are stricken by misfortune such as will endure
for ages.

CHORUS

We are stricken ; it is full clear.

⁵ *ὑπισθεν* : Bothe. ⁶ [*δ'*] Blomfield. ⁷ *ἐπόμενοι* : Hartung.

⁸ *οἱ περ* : Passow.

⁹ *ἀγρόται* : Toup.

¹⁰ l. 1003 given to Xerxes in mss. : Passow.

¹¹ *νόνημοι* M, *νόνημοι* recs.

¹² l. 1004 given to Chorus in mss. : Herm.

AESCHYLUS

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

1010 ¹νέα νέα δύα δύα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1012 κύρσαντες οὐκ εὐτυχῶς²

1011 ³Ἰάνων³ ναυβατᾶν.⁴

δυσπόλεμον δὴ γένος τὸ Περσᾶν.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

1015 πῶς δ' οὔ; στρατὸν μὲν τοσοῦ- [στρ. ε.
τον τάλας πέπληγμαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί δ' οὔκ; ὅλωλεν μεγάλως τὰ⁵ Περσᾶν.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ὀρᾶς τὸ λοιπὸν τόδε τᾶς ἐμᾶς στολᾶς;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὀρῶ ὀρῶ.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

1020 τόνδε⁶ τ' οἰστοδέγμονα—

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί τόδε λέγεις σεσσωσμένον;

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

θησαυρὸν βελέεσσιν⁷;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

βαιά γ' ὥς ἀπὸ πολλῶν.

¹ l. 1010 given to Chorus in mss. : Herm.

² ll. 1011-12 transposed : Wilam.

³ ἰάνων M, ἰαόνων recc.

⁴ ναυβάτων M : Rob.

THE PERSIANS

XERXES

By strange woe, strange woe!

CHORUS

Since in an evil hour we encountered Ionia's mariners. Unfortunate in war, indeed, is Persia's race.

XERXES

Aye, verily. In the loss of so great an army I have been stricken, miserable that I am.

CHORUS

Aye, truly Persia's power is quite fordone.

XERXES

Seest thou this remnant of my royal robe?

CHORUS

I see, I see.

XERXES

And this arrow-bearing—

CHORUS

What is this thou sayest has been saved?

XERXES

Treasury for shafts?

CHORUS

Small remnant in sooth from ample store.

⁵ μεγάλατε M, μεγάλα τὰ ρεσσ. : Herm.
⁶ τὰν δὲ or τάνδε : Porson. ⁷ βέλεσσιν M, βελέεσσιν FN.

AESCHYLUS

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ἐσπανίσμεθ' ἀρωγῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1025 Ἰάνων¹ λαὸς οὐ φυγαίχμας.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ἀγανόρειος· κατέϊ-
δον δὲ πῆμ' ἄελπτον.

[ἀντ. ε.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τραπέντα ναύφρακτον ἐρεῖς ὄμιλον;

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

1030 πέπλον δ' ἐπέρρηξ' ἐπὶ συμφορᾷ κακοῦ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

παπαῖ παπαῖ.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

καὶ πλέον ἢ παπαῖ μὲν οὖν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

δίδυμα γάρ ἐστι καὶ τριπλᾶ—

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

λυπρά, χάρματα δ' ἐχθροῖς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1035 καὶ σθένος γ' ἐκολούσθη—

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

γυμνός εἰμι προπομπῶν.

THE PERSIANS

XERXES

We have been scanted of defenders.

CHORUS

Ionia's people shrink not from the spear.

XERXES

Heroic are they. I have lived to behold a calamity
I ne'er expected.

CHORUS

Is it of the rout of the multitude that manned thy
ships that thou wouldst tell?

XERXES

And I rent my robe at the disastrous event.

CHORUS

Alack, alack!

XERXES

Nay, far worse than alack.

CHORUS

Aye, for twofold and threefold—

XERXES

Pain to us, but exultation to our foes

CHORUS

Aye, and our strength hath been maimed—

XERXES

I am stripped of my escort.

¹ *labrow* : Passow.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

φίλων ἄταισι ποντίαισιν.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

δαίνε δαίνε πῆμα· πρὸς δόμους δ' ἴθι. [στρ. ζ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, δῦα δῦα.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

1040 βόα νυν¹ ἀντίδουπά μοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

δόσιν κακὰν κακῶν κακοῖς.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ἔνυζε μέλος ὁμοῦ τιθείς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὀτοτοτοτοτοῖ.
βαρεῖά γ' ἄδε συμφορά.
1045 οἷ μάλα καὶ τόδ' ἀλγῶ.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ἔρεσσ' ἔρεσσε καὶ στέναζ' ἐμὴν χάριν. [ἀντ. ζ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

διαίνομαι γοεδνός² ὦν.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

βόα νυν¹ ἀντίδουπά μοι.

¹ νῦν : Passow.

THE PERSIANS

CHORUS

By the disasters of thy comrades upon the sea.

XERXES

Weep, weep over our calamity, and depart to your homes.

CHORUS

Alas, alas, woe, woe !

XERXES

Cry now aloud in response to me.

CHORUS

A wretched offering from the wretched to the wretched.

XERXES

Cry out, tuning thy strain to mine.

CHORUS

Woe's the day ! Grievous indeed is this visitation.
Alas, indeed, for this thy woe too I suffer.

XERXES

Ply your strokes, ply your strokes, and groan for my sake.

CHORUS

I weep in lamentation !

XERXES

Cry now aloud in response to me.

² γέεδνός M, γέεδνός m, γοεδνός recc.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μέλειν πάρεστι, δέσποτα.

ΞΕΡΕΗΣ

1050 ἐπορθιάζέ νυν¹ γόοις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὀτοτοτοτοῖ.
μέλαινα δ' ἀμμεμείζεται,²
οὔ,³ στονόεσσα πλαγά.

ΞΕΡΕΗΣ

καὶ στέρν' ἄρασσε κάπιβόα τὸ Μύσιον. [στρ. η.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1055 ἄνι' ἄνια.

ΞΕΡΕΗΣ

καί μοι γενείου πέρθε⁴ λευκήρη τρίχα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἄπριγδ' ἄπριγδα μάλα γοεδνά.

ΞΕΡΕΗΣ

αὐτεὶ δ' ὀξύ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καὶ τάδ' ἔρξω.

ΞΕΡΕΗΣ

1060 πέπλον δ' ἔρεικε⁵ κολπίαν ἀκμῇ χερῶν. [ἀντ. η.

¹ νῦν : Passow.

² ἀμ μεμίζεται M¹ (αὐ μ. M²) : Dindorf (μεμείξ. Wilam.).

THE PERSIANS

CHORUS

This care, my liege, is mine.

XERXES

Lift up now thy voice in lamentation.

CHORUS

Woe's the day ! And with our wailing, alas, shall
be mingled blackening blows and shrieks of pain.

XERXES

Beat thy breast too, and raise the Mysian wail.

CHORUS

Anguish, anguish !

XERXES

And tear, I pray thee, the white hair from out thy
beard.

CHORUS

With clenched nails, with clenched nails, with
loud wailing.

XERXES

And utter shrill cries.

CHORUS

This too will I do.

XERXES

And with thy fingers rend the robe that drapes
thee.

³ μοι : Lachmann.

⁴ ὑπερθεν Μ, πέρθε ΚF.
⁵ ἔρειδε Μ, ἔρεικε recc.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἄνι' ἄνια.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

καὶ ψάλλ' ἔθειραν καὶ κατοίκτισαι στρατόν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἄπριγδ' ἄπριγδα μάλα γοεδνά.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

διαίνου δ' ὅσσε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1065 τέγγομαί τοι.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

βόα νυν¹ ἀντίδουπά μοι.

[ἐπωδός.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οἰοῖ οἰοῖ.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

αἰακτὸς ἐς δόμους κίε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1070 ἰὼ ἰώ, [Περσὶς αἶα δύσβατος].²

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

ἰωὰ δὴ κατ' ἄστν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἰωὰ δῆτα, ναὶ ναί.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

γοᾶσθ' ἀβροβάται.

¹ νυν: Passow.

² [] Wilam.

THE PERSIANS

CHORUS

Anguish, anguish !

XERXES

And pluck out thy locks and lament our host.

CHORUS

With clenched nails, with clenched nails, with
loud wailing.

XERXES

Let tears moisten thine eyes.

CHORUS

I am steeped in tears.

XERXES

Cry now aloud in response to me.

CHORUS

Alas, alas !

XERXES

With sounds of wailing wend ye to your homes.

CHORUS

Alas, alas !

XERXES

Alas ! through the city.

CHORUS

Alas, indeed ! yea, yea.

XERXES

Pour forth your wail as ye move on with dainty
steps.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ ὦ, Περσὶς αἶα δύσβατος.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ

1075 ἰὴ ἰή¹ τρισκάλμοισιν,
ἰὴ ἰή,¹ βάρισιν ὀλόμενοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πέμψω τοί σε δυσθρόοις γόοις.

¹ ἦ or ἡ most mss., ἰή FN.

THE PERSIANS

CHORUS

Alas, alas, O Persian land, grievous now to tread !

XERXES

Ah me ! Those that perished in three-tiered
galleys, ah me !

CHORUS

I will escort thee with dismal sounds of woe.

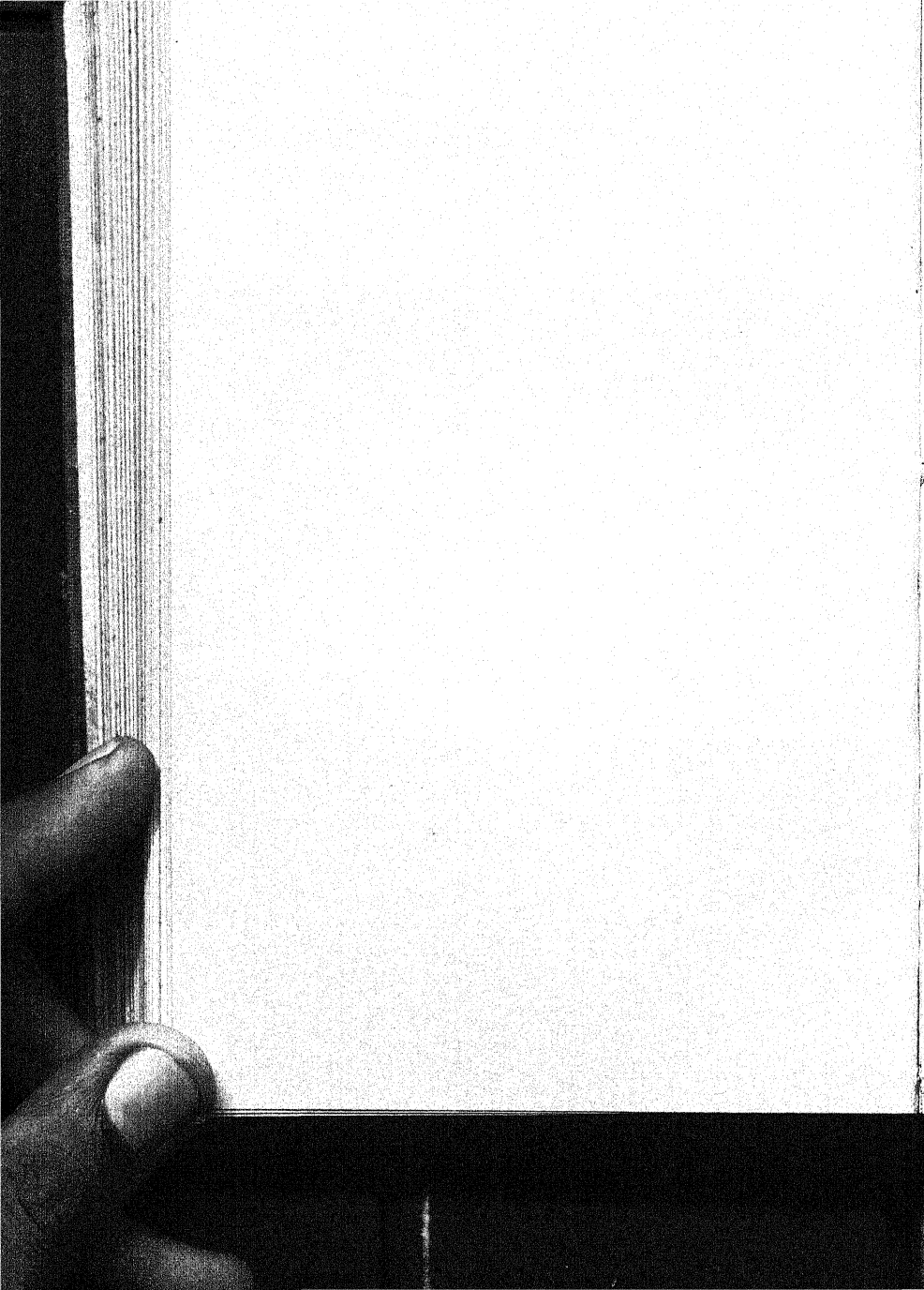
[Exeunt omnes



PROMETHEUS BOUND

VOL. I

P



ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ *καὶ* ΒΙΑ
ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ
ΧΟΡΟΣ ΩΚΕΑΝΙΔΩΝ
ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ
ΙΩ ΙΝΑΧΟΥ
ΕΡΜΗΣ

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

POWER and FORCE
HEPHAESTUS
PROMETHEUS
CHORUS of the Daughters of Oceanus
OCEANUS
Io, daughter of Inachus
HERMES

SCENE.—A rocky height, overlooking the ocean, in
the uttermost parts of Scythia.

TIME.—Mythical.

DATE.—Uncertain (the official statement is lost).

ARGUMENT

WHEN Cronus, the son of Uranus, was king in heaven, revolt against his rule arose among the gods. The Olympians strove to dethrone him in favour of Zeus, his son; the Titans, children of Uranus and Earth, championing the ancient order of violence, warred against Zeus and his partisans. Prometheus, himself a Titan, forewarned by his oracular mother Earth or Themis (for she bore either name) that the victory should be won by craft, whereas his brethren placed their sole reliance on brute force, rallied with her to the side of Zeus and secured his success. His triumph once assured, the new monarch of heaven proceeded forthwith to apportion to the gods their various functions and prerogatives; but the wretched race of man he purposed to annihilate and create another in its stead. This plan was frustrated by Prometheus, who, in compassion on their feebleness, showed them the use of fire, which he had stolen in their behoof, and taught them all arts and handicrafts. For this rebellion against the newly-founded sovereignty of Zeus, the friend of mankind was doomed to suffer chastisement—he must pass countless ages, riveted to a crag on the shores of Ocean in the trackless waste of Scythia.

But suffering of body or of mind might not quell his spirit, though he is possessed of the sad privilege of immortality. Conscious that he had erred, he is neverthe-

PROMETHEUS BOUND

less fortified by indignation that he had been made the victim of tyranny and ingratitude. Nor is he unprovided with a means to strengthen his resistance and to force the hand of his oppressor, whose despotic power has one point of attack. The Titan is possessed of a fateful secret which must be revealed to Zeus if he is not to be hurled from his dominion as his father had been before him. The despot contemplates marriage with Thetis, and should it be brought to pass, the son to be born to him is to prove mightier than his sire. This secret, told Prometheus by his mother, he will not disclose till, in the lapse of ages, Zeus consents to release him from his ignominious bonds; rather than part with it on other terms he defies the thunder and the lightning of the lord of Olympus and, amid the crashing world, is hurled to Tartarus, to the last protesting against the injustice of his doom.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ΔΕΣΜΩΤΗΣ

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

Χθονός μὲν ἐς τηλουρόν ἤκομεν πέδον,
Σκύθην ἐς οἶμον,¹ ἄβατον² εἰς ἐρημίαν.
Ἦφαιστε, σοὶ δὲ χρή μέλειν ἐπιστολὰς
ἃς σοι πατὴρ ἐφείτο, τόνδε πρὸς πέτραις
5 ὑψηλοκρήμυις τὸν λεωργὸν ὀχμάσαι
ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν ἐν ἀρρήκτοις πέδαις.³
τὸ σὸν γὰρ ἄνθος, παντέχνου πυρὸς σέλας,
θνητοῖσι κλέψας ὥπασεν· τοιᾷσδὲ τοι
ἀμαρτίας σφε δεῖ θεοῖς δοῦναι δίκην,
10 ὥς ἂν διδαχθῇ τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδα
στέργειν, φιλανθρώπου δὲ παύεσθαι τρόπου.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

Κράτος Βία τε, σφῶν μὲν ἐντολὴ Διὸς
ἔχει τέλος δὴ κοῦδέν ἐμποδῶν ἔτι·
ἐγὼ δ' ἄτολμός εἰμι συγγενῇ θεὸν
15 δῆσαι βίᾳ φάραγγι πρὸς⁴ δυσχειμέρῳ.

¹ οἶμον M, οἶμον recc.

² ἄβατον mss. (ἄβατόν τ' M) schol. Rav. Arist. Ran. 814, ἄβροτον schol. BV Hom. Ξ 78, schol. Ven. Ran. 814.

³ ἀδαμαντίναις πέδησιν . . . πέτραις M, ἀδαμαντίναις (-vois, -νης) πέδησιν (-ησι, -ησι, -αισιν) recc., ἐν omit. in many recc., 214

PROMETHEUS BOUND

[*Enter Power and Force, bringing with them
Prometheus captive; also Hephaestus*]

POWER

To earth's remotest confines we are come, to the Scythian tract, an untrodden solitude. And now, Hephaestus, thine is the charge to observe the mandates laid upon thee by the Father—to clamp this miscreant upon the high-beetling crags in shackles of binding adamant that cannot be broken. For thine own pride, even flashing fire, source of all arts, he hath purloined and bestowed upon mortal creatures. Such is his offence; wherefore he is bound to make requital to the gods, that so he may be lessoned to brook the sovereignty of Zeus and forbear his championship of man.

HEPHAESTUS

Power and Force, for you indeed the behest of Zeus is now fulfilled, and naught remains to stay you. But for me—I cannot nerve myself to bind amain a kindred god upon this rocky cleft assailed by

πέτρας some recce.: ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν . . . *πέδαις* schol.
Rav. Arist. *Ran.* 814.

⁴ τῇ M, πρὸς superscribed.

πάντως δ' ἀνάγκη τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ τόλμαν σχεθεῖν.¹
ἐξωριάξειν γὰρ πατρὸς λόγους βαρύν.

τῆς ὀρθοβούλου Θέμιδος αἰπυμῆτα παῖ,
ἄκοντά σ' ἄκων δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι
20 προσπασσαλεύσω τῷδ' ἀπανθρώπῳ πάγῳ²
ἔν' οὔτε φωνὴν οὔτε του μορφῆν βροτῶν
ὄψει, σταθευτὸς δ' ἡλίου φοίβῃ φλογὶ
χροιάς ἀμείβεις ἄνθος· ἀσμένῳ δέ σοι
ἢ ποικιλείμῳ νύξ ἀποκρύψει φάος,
25 πᾶχνην θ' ἑώαν ἥλιος σκεδᾷ πάλιν·
αἰεὶ³ δὲ τοῦ παρόντος ἀχθηδὼν κακοῦ
τρύσει σ'· ὁ λωφῆσων γὰρ οὐ πέφυκέ πω.

τοιαῦτ' ἐπηύρω⁴ τοῦ φιλανθρώπου τρόπου.
θεὸς θεῶν γὰρ οὐχ ὑποπτήσων χόλον
30 βροτοῖσι τιμὰς ὥπασας πέρα δίκης.
ἀνθ' ὧν ἀτερπῇ τήνδε φρουρήσεις πέτραν
ὀρθοστάδην, ἄπνους, οὐ κάμπτων γόνυ·
πολλοὺς δ' ὀδυρμούς καὶ γόους ἀνωφελεῖς
φθέγγῃ· Διὸς γὰρ δυσπαραίτητοι φρένες·
35 ἅπας δὲ τραχὺς ὅστις ἂν νέον κρατῇ.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

εἶεν,⁵ τί μέλλεις καὶ κατοικτίζῃ⁶ μάτην;
τί τὸν θεοῖς ἔχθιστον οὐ στυγεῖς θεόν,
ὅστις τὸ σὸν θνητοῖσι προὔδωκεν γέρας;

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

τὸ συγγενές τοι δεινὸν ἢ θ' ὁμίλια.

¹ σχεθεῖν: Elmsley.

² αἰεὶ PV.

³ τόπῳ M, πάγῳ recc.

⁴ ἐπηύρω M, ἀπηύρω other mss.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

cruel winter. Yet, come what may, I am constrained to summon courage to this deed; for 'tis perilous to disregard the commandments of the Father.

Lofty-minded son of Themis who counselleth aright, against my will, no less than thine, I must rivet thee with brazen bonds no hand can loose to this desolate crag, where nor voice nor form of mortal man shall meet thy ken; but, scorched by the sun's bright beams, thou shalt lose the fair bloom of thy flesh. And glad shalt thou be when spangled-robed night shall veil his brightness and when the sun shall scatter again the rime of morn. Evermore the burthen of thy present ill shall wear thee out; for thy deliverer is not yet born.

Such guerdon hast thou gained from thy championship of man. For, god though thou art, thou didst not quail before the wrath of the gods, but didst bestow honours upon mortal creatures beyond their due. Wherefore on this joyless rock thou must stand sentinel, erect, sleepless, thy knee unbent. And many a groan and unavailing lament thou shalt utter; for the heart of Zeus is obdurate, and everyone is harsh whose power is new.

POWER

Well, why dally and vent in vain thy pity? Why dost thou not detest a god most hateful to the gods, since he hath betrayed thy prerogative to mortals?

HEPHAESTUS

A strangely potent tie is kinship—and companionship as well.

⁵ εἰέν M.

⁶ κατοικτίσῃ M, κατοικτίσῃ recc.

AESCHYLUS

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

40 σύμφημ'· ἀνηκουστεῖν δὲ τῶν πατρὸς λόγων
οἶόν τε πῶς; οὐ τοῦτο δειμαίνεις πλέον;

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

αἰεὶ γέ¹ δὴ νηλῆς σὺ καὶ θράσους πλέως.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἄκος γὰρ οὐδὲν τόνδε θρηνεῖσθαι· σὺ δὲ
τὰ μηδὲν ὠφελοῦντα μὴ πόνει μάτην.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

45 ὦ πολλὰ μισηθεῖσα χειρωναξία.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

τί νιν στυγείς; πόνων γὰρ ὡς ἀπλῶ λόγῳ
τῶν νῦν παρόντων οὐδὲν αἰτία τέχνη.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ἔμπας τις αὐτὴν ἄλλος ὠφελεν λαχεῖν.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

50 ἅπαντ' ἐπαχθῆ² πλήν θεοῖσι κοιρανεῖν
ἐλεύθερος γὰρ οὗτις ἐστὶ πλήν Διός.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ἔγνωκα τοῖσδε κούδεν ἀντειπεῖν ἔχω.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

οὐκουν ἐπέιξε τῶδε δεσμὰ³ περιβαλεῖν,
ὡς μή σ' ἐλινύοντα προσδερχθῇ πατήρ;

¹ τε M, γε QKN, τι recc.

² ἐπράχθη: Stanley.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

POWER

I grant it ; yet to refuse to obey the commands of the Father—is this possible ? Hast thou not still greater fear of that ?

HEPHAESTUS

Aye, thou art ever pitiless and steeped in insolence.

POWER

Aye, for it boots naught to bemoan this fellow. Have done with losing thy labour at a task unprofitable.

HEPHAESTUS

Oh handicraft that I have learned so much to loathe !

POWER

Why hate it ? Since in good truth thy craft is in no wise to blame for these present troubles.

HEPHAESTUS

Nevertheless, would that it had fallen to another's lot !

POWER

Each office has its burthen except to be lord of heaven ; for none is free save only Zeus.

HEPHAESTUS

I have realized it by this sight here ; gainsay it I cannot.

POWER

Haste thee then to cast the fetters about him, lest the Father behold thee loitering.

³ τῶδε δεσµὰ Μ, δεσµὰ τῶδε recc.

AESCHYLUS

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

καὶ δὴ πρόχειρα ψάλια¹ δέρκεσθαι πάρα.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

55 βαλὼν² νιν ἀμφὶ χερσὶν ἐγκρατεῖ σθένει
ῥαιστήρι θεῖνε, πασσάλευε πρὸς πέτραις.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

περαίνεται δὴ κοῦ ματᾶ τοῦργον τόδε.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἄρασσε μᾶλλον, σφίγγε, μηδαμῇ χάλα.
δεινὸς γὰρ εὐρεῖν καὶ ἀμηχάνων πόρον.³

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

60 ἄραρεν ἦδε γ' ὠλένη δυσεκλύτως.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

καὶ τήνδε νῦν πόρπασον ἀσφαλῶς, ἵνα
μάθη σοφιστῆς ὦν Διὸς νωθέστερος.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

πλήν τοῦδ' ἄν οὐδεὶς ἐνδίκως μέμψαιτό μοι.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

65 ἀδαμαντίνου νῦν σφηνὸς αὐθάδη γνάθον
στέρνων διαμπάξ πασσάλευ' ἐρρωμένως.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

αἰαί, Προμηθεύ, σὼν ὑπερστένω⁴ πόνων.

¹ ψάλια M, ψάλλια recc., ψέλια recc. ² λαβών: Stanley.
³ πόρον mss. (πόρους Porson from schol. Arist. *Eq.* 756).

PROMETHEUS BOUND

HEPHAESTUS

Well, there then! The bracelets are ready, as thou mayest see.

POWER

Cast them about his wrists and with might and main smite with thy hammer; rivet him to the rocks.

HEPHAESTUS

There! The work is getting on and is not done amiss.

POWER

Strike harder, clamp him tight, leave nothing loose; for he is wondrous clever at finding a way even out of desperate straits.

HEPHAESTUS

This arm, at least, is fixed beyond all loosening.

POWER

Now rivet this one too and securely, that he may learn, for all his cleverness, that he is but a dullard compared to Zeus.

HEPHAESTUS

None but he could justly blame my work.

POWER

Now straight through his chest drive the adamantine wedge's stubborn edge with thy full force.

HEPHAESTUS

Alas, Prometheus, I groan over thy pangs.

⁴ ὑποστένω M, ὑπερστένω m.

AESCHYLUS

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

σὺ δ' αὖ κατοκνεῖς τῶν Διός τ' ἐχθρῶν ὕπερ
στένεις; ὅπως μὴ σαυτὸν οἰκτιεῖς ποτε.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ὄρᾱς θέαμα δυσθέατον ὄμμασιν.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

70 ὄρῳ κυροῦντα τόνδε¹ τῶν ἐπαξίων.
ἀλλ' ἀμφὶ πλευραῖς μασχαλιστήρας βάλε.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

δρᾶν ταῦτ' ἀνάγκη, μηδὲν ἐγκέλευ' ἄγαν.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἦ μὴν κελεύσω κἀπιθωύξω γε πρὸς.
χώραί κάτω, σκέλη δὲ κίρκωσον βίᾳ.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

75 καὶ δὴ πέπρακται τοῦργον οὐ μακρῷ πόνῳ.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἐρρωμένως νῦν θεῖνε διατόρους πέδας·
ὥς οὐπιτιμητῆς γε² τῶν ἔργων βαρύς.

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

ὁμοια μορφῇ γλῶσσά σου γηρύεται.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

80 σὺ μαλθακίζου, τὴν δ' ἐμὴν αὐθαδῖαν
ὀργῆς τε τραχύτητα³ μὴ πίπλησέ μοι.

¹ τῶνδε M, τόνδε m.

² σε M, γε σε B, γε m¹ rec.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

POWER

What! Shrinking again and groaning over the
foes of Zeus? Look to it lest the day come when
thou shalt grieve for thyself.

HEPHAESTUS

Thou seest a spectacle grievous for eyes to behold.

POWER

I see this fellow getting his deserts. Come,
cast the girths about his sides.

HEPHAESTUS

Do this I must; spare me thy needless ordering.

POWER

Of a truth, I'll order thee, aye and more—I'll
hound thee on. Get thee down below, and ring
his legs by force.

HEPHAESTUS

There now! The work's done and with no long
labour.

POWER

Now hammer the galling fetters with thy full
force; for the appraiser of our work is severe.

HEPHAESTUS

The utterance of thy tongue matches thy face.

POWER

Play thou the woman an thou wilt, but cast not in
my teeth my stubborn will and my relentless mood.

³ τραχίτητα M, θρασύτητα KRPγρ.

AESCHYLUS

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ

στείχωμεν, ὥς κώλοισιν ἀμφίβληστρ' ἔχει.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ

ἐνταῦθα νῦν ὕβριζε καὶ θεῶν γέρα
 συλῶν ἐφήμεροισι προστίθει. τί σοι
 οἱοί τε θνητοὶ τῶνδ' ἀπαντλήσαι πόνων;
 85 ψευδωνύμως σε δαίμονες Προμηθέα
 καλοῦσιν· αὐτὸν γάρ σε δεῖ προμηθέως,
 ὅτῳ τρόπῳ τῇσδ' ἐκκυλισθήσῃ τέχνης.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ὦ διὸς¹ αἰθὴρ καὶ ταχύπτεροι πνοαί,
 ποταμῶν τε πηγαί, ποντίων τε κυμάτων
 90 ἀνήριθμον γέλασμα, παμμήτορ² τε γῆ,
 καὶ τὸν πανόπτην κύκλον ἡλίου καλῶ·
 ἴδεσθέ μ' οἶα πρὸς θεῶν πάσχω θεός.

δέρχθηθ' οἷαις αἰκείαισιν³
 διακναιόμενος τὸν μυριετῇ
 95 χρόνον ἀθλεύσω.
 τοιόνδ' ὁ νέος ταγὸς μακάρων
 ἐξηῦρ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ δεσμὸν ἀεικῆ.
 φεῦ φεῦ, τὸ παρὸν τό τ' ἐπερχόμενον
 πῆμα στενάχω, πῇ⁴ ποτε μόχθων
 100 χρὴ τέρματα τῶνδ' ἐπιτεῖλαι.

καῖτοι τί φημι; πάντα προυξεπίσταμαι
 σκεθρῶς τὰ μέλλοντ', οὐδέ μοι ποταίνιον

¹ διὸς M, διὸς QKN.

² παμμήτωρ M, παμμήτορ recc.

³ αἰκείαισι: Elmsley.

⁴ ποί and ποί M, ποί recc., πῇ N.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

HEPHAESTUS

Let us begone, since he has got the meshes on his limbs.

[*Exit*]

POWER

There now, indulge thy insolence, keep on wrestling from the gods their honours to give them to creatures of a day. Are mortals able to lighten this thy load of woe? Falsely hight the gods call thee Prometheus,¹ for thou hast thyself need of one to take forethought how thou shalt extricate thyself from this handiwork.

[*Exeunt Power and Force*]

PROMETHEUS

O thou bright sky of heaven, ye swift-winged breezes, ye river-waters, and multitudinous laughter of the waves of ocean, O universal mother Earth, and thou, all-seeing orb of the sun, to you I call! Behold what I, a god, endure of evil from the gods.

Behold, with what shameful woes I am racked and must wrestle throughout the countless years of time apportioned me. Such is the ignominious bondage the new Commander of the Blessed hath contrived against me. Woe! Woe! For misery present and misery to come I groan, not knowing where it is fated deliverance from these woes shall dawn.

And yet, what do I say? All that is to be I know full well and in advance, nor shall any affliction

¹ Such etymologizing "play" (Pro-metheus, *Fore-thought*) was a serious matter to the Greeks, who found in the name of a person a significant indication of his nature or his fate. Unlike Shakespeare, Aeschylus saw nothing even half-humorous in such etymological analysis; and elsewhere, in playing on the names Apollo, Clytaemestra, Polynices, the *nomen* is an *omen*.

πῆμ' οὐδὲν ἤξει. τὴν πεπρωμένην δὲ χρῆ
αἶσαν φέρειν ὡς ῥᾶστα, γινώσκονθ' ὅτι
105 ἀλλ' οὔτε σιγᾶν οὔτε μὴ σιγᾶν τύχας
οἶόν τέ μοι τάσδ' ἐστί. θνητοῖς γὰρ γέρα
πορῶν ἀνάγκαις ταῖσδ' ἐνέζευγμαι τάλας·
ναρθηκοπλήρωτον δὲ θηρῶμαι πυρὸς
πηγὴν κλοπαίαν, ἣ διδάσκαλος τέχνης
110 πάσης βροτοῖς πέφηνε καὶ μέγας πόρος.
τοιῶνδε¹ ποινὰς ἀμπλακημάτων τίνω
ὑπαιθρίοις² δεσμοῖς πεπασσαλευμένος.³

ᾶ ᾶ ἔα ἔα.
τίς ἀχώ, τίς ὁδμὰ προσέπτα μ' ἀφεγγής,
115 θεόσυτος,⁴ ἣ βρότειος, ἣ κεκραμένη;
ἵκετο τερμόνιον ἐπὶ πάγον
πόνων ἐμῶν⁵ θεωρός, ἣ τί δὴ θέλων;
ὁρᾶτε δεσμώτην με δύσποτμον θεόν,
τὸν Διὸς ἐχθρόν, τὸν πᾶσι θεοῖς
120 δι' ἀπεχθείας ἐλθόνθ' ὅποσοι
τὴν Διὸς αὐλήν εἰσοιχνεύσιν,
διὰ τὴν λίαν φιλότητα βροτῶν.
φεῦ φεῦ, τί ποτ' αὖ κινάθισμα κλύω
πέλας οἰωνῶν; αἰθὴρ δ' ἐλαφραῖς
125 πτερύγων ῥιπαῖς ὑποσυρίζει.
πᾶν μοι φοβερὸν τὸ προσέρπον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μηδὲν φοβηθῆς· φιλία
γὰρ ᾄδε⁶ τάξιν πτερύγων
θοαῖς ἀμίλλαις προσέβα
τόνδε πάγον, πατρώας
130 μόγιν παρειπούσα φρένας.

[στρ. α.]

PROMETHEUS BOUND

come upon me unforeseen. My allotted doom I needs must bear as lightly as I may, knowing that the might of Necessity brooketh no resistance. Yet to be silent or not silent about this my fate is beyond my power. For it is because I bestowed good gifts on mortals that this yoke of constraint hath been bound upon me to my misery. I hunted out and stored in fennel stalk the stolen source of fire that hath proved to mortals a teacher in every art and a means to mighty ends. Such is the offence for which I pay the penalty, riveted in fetters beneath the open sky.

Ha! Hold! What murmur, what scent wingeth to me, its source invisible, heavenly or human, or blent of both? Hath there come to this crag at the confines of the world someone to stare upon my sufferings—or with what intent? Behold me, an ill-fated god, immanacled, the foe of Zeus, me who have incurred the enmity of all who resort unto the court of Zeus, by reason of my too great love for mankind. Ha! What's this? What may be this rustling stir I hear again hard by, of birds? The air whirs with the light rush of pinions. Whatever approaches is fraught with alarm for me.

[The Daughters of Oceanus enter on a winged car]

CHORUS

Be not alarmed! For this our band hath come in winged rivalry of speed unto this crag in love to thee, having won our sire's consent as best we might.

¹ τοιάσδε M, τοιῶνδε recc.

² ὑπαίθριος: Blomfield.

³ πασσαλεύμενος M (with first accent deleted), -ευμένος KN, δεσμοῖσι πασσαλευτός most recc.: C. G. Haupt.

⁴ θεόσσυτος M, θεόσυτος Arund.

⁵ ἡμῶν M, ἐμῶν recc.

⁶ ἥδε: Herm.

135 κραιπνοφόροι δέ μ' ἔπειψαν αὔραι·
κτύπου γὰρ ἀχὼ χάλυβος
διῆξεν ἀντρων μυχόν, ἐκ
δ' ἔπληξέ μου τὰν θεμερῶπιν¹ αἰδῶ·
σύθην δ' ἀπέδιλος ὄχῳ πτερωτῶ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ,²
τῆς πολυτέκνου Τηθύος ἔκγονα,
τοῦ περὶ πᾶσάν θ' εἰλισσομένου
χθόν' ἀκοιμήτῳ ρεύματι παῖδες
140 πατρός Ὠκεανοῦ,
δέρχθητ', ἐσίδεσθ' οἷω δεσμῶ
προσπορπατὸς³ τῇσδε φάραγγος
σκοπέλοις ἐν ἄκροις
φρουρὰν ἄζηλον ὀχήσω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

145 λεύσσω, Προμηθεῦ· φοβερὰ
δ' ἐμοῖσιν ὄσσοις ὁμίχλα⁴
προσῆξε πλήρης δακρύων
σὸν δέμας εἰσιδούσῃ⁵
πέτραις⁶ προσαναινόμενον
ταῖσδ' ἄδαμαντοδέτοις⁸ λύμαις.
νέοι γὰρ οἰακονόμοι
κρατοῦσ' Ὀλύμπου· νεοχμοῖς
150 δὲ δὴ νόμοις Ζεὺς ἀθέτως⁹ κρατύνει.
τὰ πρὶν δὲ πελώρια νῦν αἰστοῖ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

εἰ γάρ μ' ὑπὸ γῆν νέρθεν θ'¹⁰ Αἰδου¹¹

¹ θεμερῶπιν M, θεμερῶπιν m¹ recc.

² αἰ αἰ αἰ M, αἰ αἰ αἰ αἰ recc.

³ πρὸς πατρός M, προσπορπατὸς m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

The swift-coursing breezes bore me on; for the reverberation of the clang of iron pierced our inmost cave's recess and drove my grave-miened modesty away in fright; and I set off in haste unsandalled on a winged car.

PROMETHEUS

Alas! Alas! Offspring of fruitful Tethys and of him who with his sleepless current encircleth the whole earth, children of your father Oceanus, behold, look on me, pinioned by what fetters, upon the summit crag of this ravine, I am to hold my unenviable watch.

CHORUS

I behold, Prometheus; and in my alarm for thee there spread o'er mine eyes a mist all filled with tears as I saw thy body withering ignominiously upon this rock in these bonds of adamant. For new rulers lord it in heaven, and with new-fangled laws Zeus wieldeth arbitrary sway; and that which was mighty of old he now bringeth to naught.

PROMETHEUS

Oh that he had hurled me below the earth, aye

⁴ *ὁμίχλη* M, *ὁμίχλα* N.

⁵ *εἰσίδουσα* M, *εἰσιδούσαι* m¹, *εἰσιδούση* and *-ούσι* recs.

⁶ *πέτραι* (with *s* added?) M, *πέτρα* VQKR, *πέτραις* PBLN.

⁷ *ταῖς*: Vict.

⁸ *ἄδαμαντοδέτοις*: Turn.

⁹ *ἀθέσμως*: Bentley from Hesych.

¹⁰ *τ'*: Turn.

¹¹ *αἰδου*: Blomfield.

- τοῦ νεκροδέγμονος εἰς ἀπέρατον¹
 Τάρταρον ἦκεν,
 155 δεσμοῖς ἀλύτοις ἀγρίως² πελάσας,
 ὥς μήτε³ θεὸς μήτε τις ἄλλος
 τοῖσδ' ἐπεγῆθαι.
 νῦν δ' αἰθέριον κίνυγμ' ὁ τάλας
 ἐχθροῖς ἐπὶ χαρτα πέπονθα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 160 τίς ὦδε τλησικάρδιος [στρ. β.
 θεῶν, ὅτῳ τὰδ' ἐπιχαρῇ;
 τίς οὐ ξυνασχαλᾷ κακοῖς
 τεοῖσι, δίχα γε Διός; ὁ δ' ἐπικότως ἀεὶ⁴
 θέμενος ἄγναμπτον⁵ νόον
 165 δάμναται Οὐρανίαν
 γένναν, οὐδὲ λή-
 ξει, πρὶν ἂν ἡ κορέση κέαρ ἢ παλάμα τινὶ
 τὰν δυσάλωτον ἔλῃ τις ἀρχάν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- ἦ μὴν ἔτ' ἐμοῦ,⁶ καί περ κρατεραῖς
 ἐν γυιοπέδαις⁷ αἰκιζομένου,
 170 χρεῖαν ἔξει μακάρων πρύτανις,
 δεῖξαι τὸ νέον βούλευμ' ὑφ'⁸ ὅτου
 σκῆπτρον τιμάς τ' ἀποσυλᾶται.
 καὶ μ' οὔτι⁹ μελιγλώσσοις πειθοῦς
 ἐπαιδαῖσιν θέλξει, στερεάς τ'
 175 οὔ ποτ' ἀπειλὰς πτήξας τόδ' ἐγὼ
 καταμηνύσω,
 πρὶν ἂν ἐξ ἀγρίων δεσμῶν χαλάσῃ
 πουνάς τε τίνειν¹⁰
 τῇσδ'¹¹ αἰκείας¹² ἐθελήσῃ.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

'neath Hades, the entertainer of the dead, into impassable Tartarus, and had ruthlessly fastened me in fetters no hand can loose, that so nor god nor other kind had now gloated over this my agony! But, as it is, a plaything of the winds, to my misery, I suffer ills whereat my foes exult.

CHORUS

Who of the gods is so hard of heart as to make thy misery cause of exultation? Who feels not with thee the pang of thy woes—save only Zeus? But he in rancour hath set his soul inflexibly and keepeth in subjection the race sprung from Uranus; nor will he make an end, until either he hath satiated his soul or, by some device of guile, another seize his impregnable empire.

PROMETHEUS

Verily the day shall yet come when, though I be thus tortured in stubborn fetters, the Prince of the Blessed shall have need of me to reveal the new design and by whom he shall be stripped of his sceptre and his dignities. Not by persuasion's honied enchantments shall he charm me; and never will I, cowering before his dire threats, divulge this secret, until he shall release me from my cruel bonds and desire to proffer satisfaction for this outrage.

¹ ἀπέραντον : Wilam.

² ἀγρίους M, ἀγρίως recc.

³ ὥς μήποτε : Turn.

⁴ αἰεὶ M most recc., αἰεὶ KFN.

⁵ ἀγναμφον M, ἀγναμπον m¹, ἀγναπτον R¹LN.

⁶ ἔτ' ἀπ' ἐμοῦ M, ἔτ' ἐμοῦ recc.

⁷ γυσιπέδαις M, γυσιπέδαις recc.

⁸ ἀφ' changed to ὑφ' M.

⁹ οὐτοὶ M, οὐτὶ recc.

¹⁰ τέ μοι τίνειν M most recc., τε τίνειν N.

¹¹ τῆς M, τῆσδ' recc.

¹² αἰκίας : Elmsley.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 180 σὺ μὲν θρασὺς τε καὶ πικραῖς [ἀντ. β.
 δύαισιν οὐδέν ἐπιχαλᾷς,
 ἄγαν δ' ἐλευθεροστομεῖς.
 ἐμὰς δὲ φρένας ἐρέθισε¹ διάτορος φόβος·
 δέδια δ'² ἀμφὶ σαῖς τύχαις,
 185 πᾷ³ ποτε τῶνδε πόνων
 χρή σε τέρμα κέλ-
 σαντ' ἐσιδεῖν· ἀκίχγητα γὰρ ἦθεα καὶ κέαρ
 ἀπαράμυθον⁴ ἔχει Κρόνου παῖς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- οἶδ' ὅτι τραχὺς καὶ⁵ παρ' ἑαυτῷ
 190 τὸ δίκαιον ἔχων Ζεὺς· ἀλλ' ἔμπας [οἶω]⁶
 μαλακογνώμων
 ἔσται ποθ', ὅταν ταύτῃ ραισθῇ·⁷
 τὴν δ' ἀτέραμνον στορέσας ὀργὴν
 εἰς ἀρθμὸν ἐμοὶ καὶ φιλότῃτα
 195 σπεύδων σπεύδοντί ποθ' ἥξει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πάντ' ἐκκάλυψον καὶ γέγων' ἡμῖν λόγον,
 ποίω λαβὼν σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάματι,
 οὕτως ἀτίμως καὶ πικρῶς αἰκίζεται·
 δίδαξον ἡμᾶς, εἴ τι μὴ βλάπτει λόγῳ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- ἀλγευνὰ μὲν μοι καὶ λέγειν ἐστὶν τάδε,
 200 ἄλγος δὲ σιγᾶν, πανταχῇ δὲ δύσποτμα.
 ἐπεὶ τάχιστ' ἤρξαντο δαίμονες χόλου
 στασίς τ' ἐν ἀλλήλοισιν ὠροθύνετο,

¹ ἠρέθισε: Turn.

² γὰρ: δ' Porson.

³ ὅπερ M recc. (ὅπη, ὅποι, ὅπου recc.), πᾷ N.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Bold art thou, and batest not a jot for all thy bitter pangs, and thou givest too much licence to thy tongue. But my soul is agitated by piercing fear, and I am in dread about thy fate, wondering to what haven thou must steer thy barque to see an end of thy voyage of sorrow. For inexorable are the ways of Cronus' son and his heart is hardened against entreaty.

PROMETHEUS

I know that Zeus is harsh and keepeth justice in his own hands; but nevertheless one day he shall be mild of mood, when in that wise¹ he hath been crushed. Then, calming down his stubborn wrath, he shall at last come into bond and amity with me, eager no less to welcome him.

CHORUS

Unfold the whole story and declare to us upon what charge Zeus hath taken thee that he thus visits thee with ignominious and bitter outrage. Instruct us, unless, indeed, there be some harm in telling.

PROMETHEUS

Painful is it to me even to tell the tale, painful to keep it silent—my case is hapless every way.

When first the heavenly powers were moved to wrath, and mutual dissension was stirred up amongst

¹ A veiled allusion to the secret hinted at in l. 171.

⁴ οὐ παράμυθον MVN, ἀπαράμυθον recc.

⁵ τε καὶ M most recc., καὶ N.

⁶ ἰὼ M, ὄλω m¹ (ὄλω and οἴω recc.): om. N (Triclinius).

⁷ βωσθῇ (ω in erasure) M, βαισθῇ recc.

- οἱ μὲν θέλοντες ἐκβαλεῖν ἔδρας¹ Κρόνον,
 ὡς Ζεὺς ἀνάσσοι δῆθεν, οἱ δὲ τοῦμπαλιν
 205 σπεύδοντες, ὡς Ζεὺς μήποτ' ἄρξειεν θεῶν,
 ἐνταῦθ' ἐγὼ τὰ λῶστα βουλευῶν πιθεῖν²
 Τιτᾶνας, Οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ Χθονὸς τέκνα,
 οὐκ ἠδυνήθην· αἰμύλας δὲ μηχανὰς
 ἀτιμάσαντες καρτεροῖς φρονήμασιν
 210 ὦντ' ἀμοχθεῖ³ πρὸς βίαν τε δεσπόσειν·
 ἔμοι δὲ μήτηρ οὐχ ἅπαξ μόνον Θέμις,
 καὶ Γαῖα, πολλῶν ὀνομάτων μορφὴ μία,
 τὸ μέλλον ἢ κραίνοιτο προυτεθεσπίζει,
 ὡς οὐ κατ' ἰσχὺν οὐδὲ πρὸς τὸ καρτερὸν
 215 χρεῖη,⁴ δόλω δὲ τοὺς ὑπερσχόντας⁵ κρατεῖν.
 τοιαῦτ' ἔμοῦ λόγοισιν ἐξηγουμένον
 οὐκ ἠξίωσαν οὐδὲ προσβλέψαι τὸ πᾶν.
 κράτιστα δὴ μοι τῶν παρεστώτων τότε
 ἐφαίνεται⁶ εἶναι προσλαβόντα⁶ μητέρα
 220 ἐκόνθ' ἐκόντι Ζηνὶ συμπαραστατεῖν.
 ἑμαῖς δὲ βουλαῖς Ταρτάρου μελαμβαθῆς
 κευθμῶν καλύπτει τὸν παλαιγενῆ Κρόνον
 αὐτοῖσι συμμαχοῖσι. τοιάδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ
 225 ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ὠφελημένος
 κακαῖσι ποιναῖς ταῖσδέ μ' ἐξημεύετο.⁷
 ἔνεστι γάρ πως τοῦτο τῇ τυραννίδι
 νόσημα, τοῖς φίλοισι μὴ πεποιθέναι.
 ὃ δ' οὖν ἐρωτᾷτ', αἰτίαν⁸ καθ' ἣντινα
 αἰκίζεται με, τοῦτο δὴ σαφηνιώ.
 230 ὅπως τάχιστα τὸν πατρώον ἐς θρόνον
 καθέζετ', εὐθὺς δαίμοσιν⁹ νέμει γέρα

¹ ἔδρας MPVQR, ἔδρας recc.

² πείθειν M, πιθεῖν m¹.

³ ἀμοχθεῖ M, ἀμοχθεῖ most recc.

⁴ χρῆ· ἢ M (χρεῖ· ἢ marg. m¹), χρῆ ἢ recc. : Dawes.

them, some bent on casting Cronus from his seat that Zeus, forsooth, might reign; others, eager for the contrary end, that Zeus might never win mastery over the gods—then it was that I, albeit advising them for the best, was unable to persuade the Titans, children of Heaven and Earth; but they, disdaining counsels of craft, in the pride of their strength thought to gain the mastery without a struggle and by force. Full oft my mother Themis, or Earth (one form she hath but many names), had foretold to me the way in which the future was fated to come to pass—how that it was not by brute strength and not through violence, but by guile that those who should gain the upper hand were destined to prevail. For all that I set this forth by argument to them, they did not deign even to regard my advice one whit. Therefore of what was then before me the best choice seemed to be that I, joining my mother with me, should range myself, a welcome volunteer, on the side of Zeus; and it is by reason of my counsel that the cavernous gloom of Tartarus now hides ancient Cronus and his allies withal. Such profit did the tyrant of Heaven have of me and with such foul return as this did he make requital; for it is a disease that somehow inheres in tyranny to have no faith in friends.

However, touching your question for what cause he torments me, this I will now make clear.

Soon as ever he had seated himself upon his father's throne, he forthwith assigned to the deities

⁶ ὑπερχόντας M, -έχοντας most recc., -έσχοντας some recc.: Porson.

⁶ προσλαβόντι M most recc., προσλαβόντα KN.

⁷ ἐξημείψατο M, ἀντημείψατο Arund. Cant. 2.

⁸ αἰτίην M, αἰτίαν recc.

⁹ δαίμοσι M.

- ἄλλοισιν ἄλλα καὶ διεστοιχίζετο
 ἀρχήν· βροτῶν δὲ τῶν τάλαιπῶρων λόγον
 οὐκ ἔσχεν οὐδέν', ἀλλ' αἰστώσας γένος
 235 τὸ πᾶν ἔχρηξεν ἄλλο φιτῦσαι νέον.
 καὶ τοῖσιν¹ οὐδεὶς ἀντέβαινε πλὴν ἐμοῦ.
 ἐγὼ δ' ἐτόλμης²· ἐξελυσάμην βροτοὺς
 τὸ μὴ³ διαρραισθέντας εἰς Ἄιδου μολεῖν.
 τῷ τοι⁴ τοιαῖσδε πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι,
 240 πᾶσχειν μὲν ἀλγειναῖσιν, οἰκτραῖσιν δ' ἰδεῖν·
 θνητοὺς δ' ἐν οἴκτῳ προθέμενος, τοῦτου τυχεῖν
 οὐκ ἤξιώθην αὐτός, ἀλλὰ νηλεῶς⁵
 ὦδ' ἐρρύθμισμαι, Ζηνὶ δυσκλεῆς θέα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- σιδηρόφρων τε καὶ πέτρας εἰργασμένος
 245 ὅστις, Προμηθεῦ, σοῖσιν οὐ συνασχαλᾷ
 μόχθοις· ἐγὼ γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν εἰσιδεῖν τάδε
 ἔχρηξον εἰσιδοῦσά τ' ἠλγύνθην⁶ κέαρ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

καὶ μὴν φίλοις <γ>⁷ ἐλεινὸς⁸ εἰσορᾶν ἐγώ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μή πού τι προύβης τῶνδε καὶ περαιτέρω;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 250 θνητοὺς γ'⁹ ἔπαυσα μὴ προδέρκεσθαι¹⁰ μόρον.

¹ τοῖσιν (ν in erasure M).

² δὲ τόλμης M, δ' ἐτόλμης reported by schol. M, δὲ τολμῆς and δὲ τόλμης recc.

³ τὸ μὴ M, τοῦ μὴ recc.

⁵ ἀλλὰ ἀνηλεῶς: Elmsley.

⁴ τῷ ταῖς M, τοι over ταῖς m.

⁶ ἀλγύνθην M, ἠλγύνθην recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

their several privileges and apportioned unto them their proper powers. But of wretched mortals he took no heed, but desired to bring the whole race to nothingness and to create another, a new one, in its stead. Against this purpose none dared make stand save I myself—I only had the courage; I saved mortals so that they did not descend, blasted utterly, unto the house of Death. Therefore am I bent by so grievous tortures, painful to suffer, piteous to behold. I that gave mortals first place in my pity, I am deemed unworthy to win this pity for myself, but am thus mercilessly disciplined, a spectacle that shames the fame of Zeus.

CHORUS

A heart of iron and fashioned out of rock, Prometheus, is he who feels no compassion at thy miseries. For myself, I should not have desired to see them; and now that I see them I am pained to the heart.

PROMETHEUS

Aye, to my friends indeed I am a spectacle of pity.

CHORUS

Thou didst not perchance transgress even somewhat beyond this offence?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, I caused mortals no longer to foresee their doom.¹

¹ "Doom" here signifies "doom of death."

⁷ <γ> Wecklein.

⁸ ἑλεεινός: Porson.

⁹ θνητούς γ' M, Lips. ¹ Ven. 3, θνητούς γ' Lips. ² P², Vind. ² 4, θνητοὺς most recc. ¹⁰ προσδέρκεσθαι changed to προ- M.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τὸ ποῖον εὐρών τῇσδε φάρμακον νόσου;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τυφλὰς ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐλπίδας κατῴκισα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μέγ' ὠφέλημα τοῦτ' ἐδωρήσω βροτοῖς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

πρὸς τοῖσδε μέντοι πῦρ ἐγὼ σφιν ὥπασα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

255 καὶ νῦν φλογωπὸν πῦρ ἔχουσ' ἐφήμεροι;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἄφ' οὗ γε πολλὰς ἐκμαθήσονται τέχνας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τοιοῖσδε δὴ σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάμασιν—

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ¹

αἰκίζεταιί τε κοῦδαμῇ χαλᾷ κακῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ¹

οὐδ' ἔστιν ἄθλου τέρμα σοι προκείμενον;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

260 οὐκ ἄλλο γ' οὐδέν, πλὴν ὅταν κείνῳ δοκῇ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

δόξει δὲ πῶς; τίς ἐλπίς; οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὅτι
ἡμαρτες; ὥς δ' ἡμαρτες οὐτ' ἐμοὶ λέγειν

¹ Πρ. Χορ. added by Welcker.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Of what sort was the cure thou didst find for this affliction ?

PROMETHEUS

I caused blind hopes to dwell within their breasts.

CHORUS

A great boon was this thou gavest to mortals.

PROMETHEUS

And besides it was I that gave them fire.

CHORUS

What ! Do creatures of a day now have flame-eyed fire ?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, and therefrom they shall learn many arts.

CHORUS

Was it then on a charge like this that Zeus—

PROMETHEUS

Torments me and in no wise gives me respite from pain.

CHORUS

And is there no end assigned thee of thine ordeal ?

PROMETHEUS

Nay, none save when it seemeth to him good.

CHORUS

But how shall it seem good ? What hope is there ? Seest thou not that thou hast erred ? And yet how thou hast erred is no pleasant matter of discourse

καθ' ἡδονὴν σοί τ' ἄλγος. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν
μεθῶμεν, ἄθλου δ' ἔκλυσιν ζήτει τινά.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 265 ἑλαφρὸν ὅστις πημάτων ἕξω πόδα
ἔχει παραινεῖν νουθετεῖν τε τὸν κακῶς
πράσσοντ'.¹ ἐγὼ δὲ ταῦθ' ἅπαντ' ἠπιστάμην.
ἐκὼν ἐκὼν ἤμαρτον, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.
θνητοῖς ἀρήγων αὐτὸς ἠϋρόμην² πόνους.
270 οὐ μὴν τι ποιναῖς γ' ὤόμην τοῖαισί με
κατισχανεῖσθαι³ πρὸς πέτρας πεδαρσίοις,⁴
τυχόντ' ἐρήμουν τοῦδ' ἀγέιτονος πάγου.
καί μοι τὰ μὲν παρόντα μὴ δύρεσθ' ἄχῃ,
πέδοι δὲ βᾶσαι τὰς προσερπούσας τύχας
275 ἀκούσασθ', ὥς μάθητε διὰ τέλους τὸ πᾶν.
πίθεσθέ μοι, πίθεσθε,⁵ συμπονήσατε
τῷ νῦν μογοῦντι. ταῦτά τοι⁶ πλανωμένα
πρὸς ἄλλοτ' ἄλλον πημονὴ προσιζάνει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- οὐκ ἀκούσαις ἐπεθύνξας
280 τοῦτο, Προμηθεῦ.
καὶ νῦν ἑλαφρῶ ποδὶ κραιπνόσυντον'
θακὸν προλιποῦσ', αἰθέρα θ' ἄγνόν
πόρον οἰωνῶν, ὀκριόεσση
χθονὶ τῇδε πελῶ, τοὺς σοὺς δὲ πόνους
285 χρῆζω διὰ παντὸς ἀκοῦσαι.

ΟΙΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἦκω δολιχῆς τέρμα κελεύθου

¹ τοὺς κακῶς πράσσοντας: Stanley.

² εὐρόμην M, ἠϋρόμην recc.

³ κατισχανεῖσθαι M, κατισχανεῖσθαι recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

for me, while for thee 'tis pain. But let us quit this theme; and do thou seek some release from thine ordeal.

PROMETHEUS

'Tis easy for him who keeps his foot free from harm to counsel and admonish him who is in misery. Myself I knew all this the while. Of mine own will, aye, of mine own will I erred—gainsay it I cannot. In succouring mortals I found suffering for myself; nevertheless I thought not to be punished thus—to waste away upon cliffs in mid-air, my portion this desolate and drear crag. And now, I pray ye, bewail no more my present woes; alight on the ground and listen to my oncoming fortunes that ye may be told them from end to end. Consent, I pray you, oh consent. Take part in the trouble of him who is now in sore distress. Of a truth, affliction wandereth impartially abroad and alighteth upon all in turn.

CHORUS

Not to unwilling ears hast thou made this appeal, Prometheus. And so now with light foot I will quit my swift-speeding seat and the pure air, the pathway of birds, and draw nigh to this rugged ground; for I am fain to hear the whole story of thy woes.

[Enter Oceanus on a winged steed]

OCEANUS

I am come to the goal of a long journey in my

⁴ πεδαρσiais corrected to -ois M.

⁵ πείθεσθε twice: Elmsley.

⁶ ταῦτά τοι M, ταῦτά τοι schol. M.

⁷ κραιπνόςστυον M, κραιπνόςστυον recc.

διαμειψάμενος πρὸς σέ, Προμηθεῦ,
 τὸν πτερυγικῇ τόνδ' οἰωνὸν
 γνώμη στομίῳν ἄτερ εὐθύνων·
 290 ταῖς σαῖς δὲ τύχαις, ἴσθι, συναλγῶ.
 τό τε γάρ με, δοκῶ, συγγενὲς οὕτως
 ἔσαναγκάζει,
 χωρὶς τε γένους οὐκ ἔστιν ὅτω
 μείζονα μοῖραν νείμαιμ' ἢ σοί.
 295 γνώσῃ δὲ τάδ' ὥς ἔτυμ', οὐδὲ μάττην
 χαριτογλωσσέειν¹ ἐνι μοι· φέρε γὰρ
 σήμαιν' ὃ τι χρή σοι συμπράσσειν²
 οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἔρεῖς ὥς Ὀκεανοῦ
 φίλος ἐστὶ βεβαιώτερός σοι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

300 ἔα· τί χρήμα λεύσσω; καὶ σὺ δὴ πόνων ἐμῶν
 ἦκεις ἐπόπτῃς; πῶς ἐτόλμησας, λιπὼν
 ἐπώνυμόν τε ρεύμα καὶ πετρηρεφῇ
 αὐτόκτιτ' ἄντρα, τὴν σιδηρομήτορα
 ἐλθεῖν ἐς αἶαν; ἥ³ θεωρήσων τύχας
 305 ἐμὰς ἀφῖξαι καὶ συνασχαλῶν κακοῖς;
 δέρκου θέαμα, τόνδε τὸν Διὸς φίλον,
 τὸν συγκαταστήσαντα τὴν τυραννίδα,
 οἷαίς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι.

ΟΚΕΑΝΟΣ

310 ὄρω, Προμηθεῦ, καὶ παραινέσαι γέ σοι
 θέλω τὰ λῶστα, καίπερ ὄντι ποικίλῳ.
 γίγνωσκε σαυτὸν καὶ μεθάρμοσαι τρόπους
 νέους· νέος γὰρ καὶ τύραννος ἐν θεοῖς.
 εἰ δ' ᾗδε τραχεῖς καὶ τεθηγμένους λόγους
 ρίψεις, τάχ' ἂν σου καὶ μακρὰν ἀνώτέρω

PROMETHEUS BOUND

passage to thee, Prometheus, guiding by mine own will, without a bit, this swift-winged bird. For thy fate, thou may'st be sure, I feel compassion. Kinship, methinks, constraineth me to this; and, apart from blood, there is none to whom I should pay greater respect than to thee. Thou shalt know this for simple sooth and that it is not in me to utter vain and glozing words; come, tell me—what aid can I render thee? For thou shalt never say thou hast a friend more loyal than Oceanus.

PROMETHEUS

Ha! What have we here? So then thou too hast come to stare upon my sufferings? How didst thou summon courage to quit the stream that bears thy name and the rock-roofed caves thou thyself hast made and come unto this land, the mother of iron? Is it that thou hast come to gaze upon my state and join thy grief to my distress? Behold a spectacle—me here, the friend of Zeus, who helped him to establish his sovereign sway, by what anguish I am bent even by him!

OCEANUS

I behold, Prometheus; and moreover, am fain to give thee counsel for the best, for all that thou art subtle. Learn to know thyself and adapt to thyself new ways; for new likewise is the ruler among the gods. But if thou hurlest forth words so harsh and of such whetted edge, peradventure Zeus may

¹ σε τὸ χαριτογλωσσεῖν M recc. (some recc. omit τὸ, some have -γλωττεῖν): χαριτογλωσσεῖν N, Athen. 165 c.

² συμπράττειν: Brunck.

³ ἢ M, ἦ recc.

- 315 θακῶν κλύοι Ζεὺς, ὥστε σοι τὸν νῦν ὄχλον¹
παρόντα μόχθων παιδιὰν εἶναι δοκεῖν.
ἀλλ', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', ἃς ἔχεις ὀργὰς ἄφες,
ζήτει δὲ τῶνδε πημάτων ἀπαλλαγάς.
ἀρχαί' ἴσως σοι φαίνομαι λέγειν τάδε·
320 τοιαῦτα μέντοι τῆς ἄγαν ὑψηγόρου
γλώσσης, Προμηθεῦ, τὰπίχειρα γίννεται.
σὺ δ' οὐδέπω ταπεινὸς οὐδ' εἴκεις κακοῖς,
πρὸς τοῖς παροῦσι δ' ἄλλα προσλαβεῖν θέλεις.
οὐκ οὖν ἐμοιγε χρώμενος διδασκάλῳ
325 πρὸς κέντρα κῶλον ἐκτενεῖς, ὅρων ὅτι
τραχὺς μόναρχος οὐδ' ὑπεύθυνος κρατεῖ.
καὶ νῦν ἐγὼ μὲν εἶμι καὶ πειράσομαι
ἐὰν δύνωμαι τῶνδ' ἐκλύσαι πόνων.
σὺ δ' ἡσύχαζε μηδ' ἄγαν λαβροστόμει.
330 ἢ οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀκριβῶς ὦν περισσόφρων ὅτι
γλώσση ματαία ζημία προστρίβεται;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- ζηλῶ σ' ὀθύνεκ' ἐκτὸς αἰτίας κυρεῖς
τοῦτων² μετασχεῖν³ καὶ τετολμηκῶς ἐμοί.
καὶ νῦν ἔασον μηδέ⁴ σοι μελησάτω.
335 πάντως γὰρ οὐ πείσεις⁵ νιν· οὐ γὰρ εὐπιθής.⁶
πάπταινε δ' αὐτὸς μή τι πημανθής ὁδῶ.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

- πολλῶ γ' ἀμείνων τοὺς πέλας φρενοῦν ἔφες
ἢ σαυτὸν· ἔργῳ κοῦ λόγῳ τεκμαίρομαι.
340 ὀρμώμενον δὲ μηδαμῶς ἀντισπάσης.

¹ χόλον : Doederlein.

² μετασχών : Weil.

³ πείθεις M, πείσεις recc.

⁴ πάντων : Wecklein.

⁵ μηδὲν M, μηδὲ recc.

⁶ εὐπιθής M, εὐπιθής recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

hear thee, though throned afar, high in the heavens, so that thy present multitude of sorrows shall seem but childish sport. But, oh wretched sufferer, put away thy wrathful mood and try to find releasement from these miseries. Perchance this advice may seem to thee an outworn saw; but such plight as thine, Prometheus, is but the wages of too vaunting speech. But not even yet hast thou learned humility, nor dost thou bend before misfortune, but wouldst rather add still other ills to thy present store. Therefore take me as thy teacher and kick not against the pricks, seeing that a harsh ruler now holds sway who is accountable to none. So now I will depart and try if haply I may be able to release thee from these sufferings. And do thou hold thy peace and be not too blustering of speech. Or, for all thy exceeding wisdom, dost thou not know full well that chastisement is inflicted on a froward tongue?

PROMETHEUS

I envy thee that thou art clear of blame for having so much as dared to share with me in these my troubles.¹ So now have done and let it concern thee not. Do what thou wilt, thou canst not persuade him; for he is not easy to persuade. Beware lest by thy mission thou take, perchance, some harm unto thyself.

OCEANUS

Of a truth, thou art far better able to admonish others than thyself. 'Tis by fact, not by hearsay, that I judge. But stay not him that is bent on

¹ The reading of the mss. can only mean that Oceanus had participated throughout in the rebellion of Prometheus; whereas, in l. 236, Prometheus expressly declares that he had no confederate in his opposition to Zeus.

αὐχῶ γὰρ αὐχῶ τήνδε δωρεὰν ἐμοὶ
δώσειν Δί', ὥστε τῶνδ' ἐκλύσαι πόνων.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τὰ μὲν σ' ἐπαινῶ κοῦδαμῇ¹ λήξω ποτέ·
προθυμίας γὰρ οὐδὲν ἐλλείπεις. ἀτὰρ
μηδὲν πόνει· μάτην γὰρ οὐδὲν ὠφελῶν
345 ἐμοὶ πονήσεις, εἴ τι καὶ πονεῖν θέλεις.
ἀλλ' ἡσύχαζε σαυτὸν ἐκποδῶν ἔχων·
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ, εἰ δυστυχῶ, τοῦδ' εἵνεκα
θέλωιμ' ἂν ὡς πλείστοισι πημονὰς τυχεῖν.
οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ με καὶ κασιγνήτου τύχαι
350 τείρουσ' Ἀτλαντος, ὃς πρὸς³ ἐσπέρους τόπους
ἔστηκε κίον' οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ χθονὸς
ᾧμοις ἐρείδων, ἄχθος οὐκ εὐάγκαλον.
τὸν γηγενῆ τε Κιλικίων οἰκήτορα
ἄντρων ἰδὼν ᾤκτιρα,⁴ δάιον τέρας
355 ἑκατογκάρανον⁵ πρὸς βίαν χειρούμενον
Τυφῶνα θοῦρον· πᾶσιν[ὃς]⁶ ἀντέστη θεοῖς,
σμερδναῖσι γαμφηλαῖσι συρίζων φόβον·
ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ἥστραπτε γοργωπὸν σέλας,
ὡς τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδ' ἐκπέρσων βία·
360 ἀλλ' ἦλθεν αὐτῷ Ζηνὸς ἄγρυπνον βέλος,
καταιβάτης κεραυνὸς ἐκπνέων φλόγα,
ὃς αὐτὸν ἐξέπληξε τῶν ὑψηλόρων
κομπασμάτων. φρένας γὰρ εἰς αὐτὰς τυπεῖς
ἐφεισάλωθη κάζεβροντήθη σθένος.
365 καὶ νῦν ἀχρεῖον καὶ παράδορον⁸ δέμας
κεῖται στενωποῦ πλησίον θαλασσίου
ἱπούμενος ῥίζαισιν Αἰτναίαις ὕπο·

¹ κ' οὐδὲ μὴ M, κοῦδαμῇ recc.

² l. 349 is given to Oceanus in many mss. (but not in M).

³ ἐς M, πρὸς recc.

⁴ ᾤκτιρα: Kirchhoff.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

going. For I am confident, aye, confident, that Zeus will grant me this boon, to free thee from thy sufferings.

PROMETHEUS

So far I thank thee now and shall never cease to thank thee; for in zeal thou lackest naught. But trouble not thyself; for vain and not helpful to me will be thy trouble—if trouble thou art fain perchance to take. Nay, hold thee quiet and keep thyself clear of harm. For if I am in sore plight, I would not therefore wish affliction to be the lot of all the world. No, indeed, no! since, besides, I am distressed by the fate of my brother Atlas, who, towards the west, stands bearing on his shoulders the pillar of heaven and earth, a burthen not easy for his arms to grasp. Pity moved me, too, at the sight of the earth-born dweller of the Cilician caves curbed by violence, that destructive monster of an hundred heads, impetuous Typhon. He withstood all the gods, hissing out terror with horrid jaws, while from his eyes lightened a hideous glare, as though he would storm amain the sovereignty of Zeus. But upon him came the unsleeping bolt of Zeus, the swooping levin brand with breath of flame, which smote him, frightened, from his high-worded vauntings; for, stricken to the very heart, he was burnt to ashes and his strength blasted from him by the lightning bolt. And now, a helpless and a sprawling bulk, he lies hard by the narrows of the sea, pressed down beneath the roots of Aetna; whilst on the topmost

⁵ ἑκατοντοκάρηνον with α over η M: Blomfield.

⁶ πᾶσιν δς MPBLN, δς πᾶσιν many recc.: [δς] Wellauer.

⁷ φόβον M, φόνον recc.

⁸ παρᾶωρον M, παρήγορον PLR, παρᾶορον Q².

- 370 κορυφαῖς δ' ἐν ἄκραῖς ἤμενος μυδροκτυπεῖ
 "Ηφαιστος· ἔνθεν ἐκραγήσονται ποτε
 ποταμοὶ πυρὸς δάπτοντες ἀγρίαις γνάθοις
 τῆς καλλικάρπου Σικελίας λευροῦς γνάς·
 τοῖόνδε Τυφῶς ἐξαναζέσει χόλον
 375 θερμοῖς¹ ἀπλάτου² βέλεσι³ πυρπνούου ζάλης,
 καίπερ κεραυνῷ Ζηνὸς ἠνθρακωμένος.
 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἄπειρος, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ διδασκάλου
 χρήζεις· σεαυτὸν σφίζ' ὅπως ἐπίστασαι·
 ἐγὼ δὲ τὴν παροῦσαν ἀντλήσω τύχην,
 ἔστ' ἂν Διὸς φρόνημα λωφήσῃ χόλου.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

- 380 οὐκουν, Προμηθεῦ, τοῦτο γινώσκεις, ὅτι
 ὀργῆς⁴ νοσοῦσης εἰσὶν ἱατροὶ λόγοι;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἐάν τις ἐν καιρῷ γε μαλθάσῃ κέαρ
 καὶ μὴ σφριγῶντα θυμὸν ἰσχναίνει βία.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἐν τῷ προθυμεῖσθαι⁵ δὲ καὶ τολμᾶν τίνα
 ὀρᾶς ἐνοῦσαν ζημίαν; δίδασκέ με.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 385 μόχθον περισσὸν κουφόνουν τ' εὐηθίαν.

¹ θερμῆς M, θερμοῖς recc.

² ἀπλήστου: Schütz.

³ βέλεσι M, βέλεσι recc.

⁴ ὀργῆς mss., ψυχῆς Plutarch, *Consol. ad Apoll.* 102 B, Eustathius 696. 33, etc.

⁵ προθυμεῖσθαι most mss., προμηθεῖσθαι PHBQ¹ schol. M. With the latter reading, the meaning is "when daring joins

PROMETHEUS BOUND

summit Hephaestus sits and hammers the molten ore. Thence there shall one day burst forth rivers of fire,¹ with savage jaws devouring the level fields of Sicily, land of fair fruit—such boiling rage shall Typho, although charred by the blazing levin of Zeus, send spouting forth with hot jets of appalling, fire-breathing surge.

But thou art not inexperienced, and hast no need of lessoning from me. Save thyself, as thou best knowest; while I will drain to the dregs my present lot until such time as the mind of Zeus shall abate its wrath.

OCEANUS

Knowest thou not then, Prometheus, that words are the mediciners of a disordered temper?

PROMETHEUS

If one salve the soul in season, and not seek to reduce its swelling rage by violence.

OCEANUS

What lurking mischief dost thou mark when daring joins to zeal? Resolve me this.

PROMETHEUS

Lost labour and blithe and guileless simplicity.

¹ The eruption of Aetna in 479/8 B.C. is also described in a famous passage of Pindar (*Pyth.* i. 21 ff., written in 470 B.C.), which Aeschylus has here in mind. The lyric poet dwells on the physical aspect of the eruption by day and night; the dramatist, on the damage done to the labour of the husbandman.

to forethought"—a reference to the name of Prometheus (cp. l. 85).

AESCHYLUS

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἔα με τῇδε τῇ νόσω νοσεῖν, ἐπεὶ
κέρδιστον εὖ φρονοῦντα μὴ φρονεῖν δοκεῖν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἐμὸν δοκήσει τὰμπλάκημ' εἶναι τόδε.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

σαφῶς μ' ἐς οἶκον σὸς λόγος στέλλει πάλιν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

390 μὴ γάρ σε θρῆνος οὐμός εἰς ἔχθραν βάλη.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἦ τῷ νέον θακοῦντι παγκρατεῖς ἔδρας;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τούτου φυλάσσου μὴ ποτ' ἀχθεσθῇ κέαρ.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

ἦ σή, Προμηθεῦ, συμφορὰ διδάσκαλος.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

στέλλου, κομίζου, σῶζε τὸν παρόντα νοῦν.

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ

395 ὀρμωμένω μοι τόνδ' ἐθώνυξας λόγον.
λευρόν γάρ οἱμον αἰθέρος ψαίρει πτεροῖς
τετρασκελῆς οἰωνός· ἄσμενος δέ τ' αὖν¹
σταθμοῖς ἐν οἰκείοισι κάμψειεν γόνυ.

¹ δ' ἔτ' ἂν or δέ τ' ἂν: Blomfield.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

OCEANUS

Leave me to be distempered on this wise, since it advantageth most, when truly wise, to be deemed a fool.

PROMETHEUS

This fault will be seen to be mine own.

OCEANUS

Clearly the tenor of thy speech remands me home.

PROMETHEUS

See to it lest thy lamenting me win thee enmity.

OCEANUS

With him new-seated on his throne omnipotent ?

PROMETHEUS

Beware lest the time come when his heart shall be angered with thee.

OCEANUS

Thy plight, Prometheus, is my instructor.

PROMETHEUS

Get thee gone, dispatch, keep thy present purpose.

OCEANUS

Thy urgency meets my eagerness ; for my four-footed winged beast fans with his wings the smooth pathway of the air ; and truly will he be glad to rest his knees in his stall at home.

[Exit

[στρ. α.]

στένω σε τὰς οὐλομένας¹ τύχας, Προμηθεύ.
 400 δακρυσίστακτα² δ' ἀπ' ὅσων
 ῥαδινὰν³ λειβομένα ῥέος παρειὰν
 νοτίοις ἔτεγξα παγαῖς⁴.
 ἀμέγαρτα γὰρ τάδε Ζεὺς
 ἰδίους νόμοις κρατύνων
 405 ὑπερήφανον⁵ θεοῖς τοῖς
 πάρος ἐνδείκνυσιν αἰχμάν.⁶

πρόπασα δ' ἤδη στονόεν λέλακε χώρα, [ἀντ. α.]
 μεγαλοσχήμενά τ' ἀρχαι-
 σπρεπῇ — — —⁷ στένουσι τὰν σὰν
 410 ξυνομαιμόνων τε τιμάν,
 ὅπόσοι τ' ἔποικον ἀγνᾶς
 Ἀσίας ἔδος νέμονται,
 μεγαλοστόνοισι σοῖς πῆ-
 μασι συγκάμνουσι θνατοί.

415 Κολχίδος τε γὰς ἔνοικοι [στρ. β.]
 παρθένοι, μάχας ἄτρεστοι,
 καὶ Σκύθης ὁμιλος, οἱ γὰς
 ἔσχατον τόπον ἀμφὶ Μαι-
 ῶτιν ἔχουσι λίμναν,

420 † Ἀραβίας τ' ἄρειον ἄνθος, [ἀντ. β.]
 ὑψίκρημνον⁸ οἱ πόλισμα
 Καυκάσου πέλας νέμονται,⁹
 δαίος στρατός, ὄξυπρῶ-
 ροισι βρέμων ἐν αἰχμαῖς.

¹ τὰς οὐλομένας with η over both α's M.

² δακρυσίστακτον : Minckwitz.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

I mourn over thee, Prometheus, by reason of thy hapless fate. Shedding from my eyes a coursing flood of tears I wet my tender cheeks with their moist streams. For Zeus, holding thus direful sway by self-appointed laws, displayeth towards the gods of eld an overweening spirit.

Now the whole earth crieth aloud in lamentation; . . . lament the greatness of the glory of thy time-hallowed honour, the honour that was thine and thy brethren's; and all mortals that make their dwelling-place in holy Asia share the anguish of thy most lamentable suffering;

And the dwellers in the land of Colchis, the maidens fearless in fight; and the Scythian multitude that tenants the uttermost region of the earth bordering the Maeotic lake;

And the flower of Arabia in arms, that holdeth the high-cragged citadel hard by Caucasus, a hostile host that roareth in the mellay of sharp-pointed spears.

³ ῥαδινῶν M, ῥαδινὸν recc.: Wilam.

⁴ πηγαῖς M, παγαῖς recc.

⁵ ὑπερήφανος with ν over s M.

⁶ ἐνδεικνύειν αἰχμήν M, ἐνδεικνυσιν αἰχμάν recc.

⁷ Various, but altogether uncertain, emendations have been proposed to heal the defective responsion: θ' ἐσπέραιοι Wecklein, περθόμεναν Dindorf, δυρόμενοι Fritzsche, δακρυχέει (with στένουσα, found in N) Herm.

⁸ ὑψίκρημον θ' M, ὑψίκρημνον schol. M.

⁹ νέμονσι M, νέμονται lemma schol. M recc.

- 425 ¹[†μόνον δὴ² πρόσθεν ἄλλον ἐν πόνοις [ἐπ'ωδ.
δαμέντ' ἀδαμαντοδέτοις³
Τιτᾶνα λύμαις εἰσιδόμαν, θεόν,⁴
"Ατλαντος [αἰὲν]⁵ ὑπέροχον⁶ σθένης κρᾶταιόν,
<ὅς> οὐράνιον [τε] πόλον
430 νώτοις <στέγων>⁷ ὑποστενάζει.†]
βοᾷ δὲ πόντιος κλύδων [ἐπ'ωδ.
ξυμπίνων, στένει βυθός,⁸
κελαινὸς δ' "Αἰδος ὑποβρέμει μυχὸς γᾶς,
παγαί θ' ἀγνωρύτων ποταμῶν
435 στένουσιν ἄλγος οἰκτρὸν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- μή τοι χλιδῇ δοκεῖτε μηδ' αὐθαδία
σιγᾶν με· συννοία δὲ δάπτομαι κέαρ,
ὁρῶν ἐμαυτὸν ὧδε προσελούμενον.⁹
καίτοι θεοῖσι τοῖς νέοις τούτοις γέρα
440 τίς ἄλλος ἢ 'γὼ παντελῶς διώρισεν;
ἀλλ' αὐτὰ σιγῶ· καὶ γὰρ εἰδυῖαισιν ἂν
ὑμῖν λέγοιμι· τὰν βροτοῖς δὲ πῆματα
ἀκούσαθ', ὥς σφας νηπίους ὄντας τὸ πρὶν
ἐννοὺς ἔθηκα καὶ φρενῶν ἐπηβόλους.
445 λέξω δέ, μέμψιν οὐτ' ἀνθρώποις ἔχων,
ἀλλ' ὦν δέδωκ' εὐνοίαν ἐξηγούμενος·
οἳ πρῶτα μὲν βλέποντες ἔβλεπον μάτην,
κλύοντες οὐκ ἤκουον, ἀλλ' ὀνειράτων
ἀλίγκιοι μορφαῖσι τὸν μακρὸν βίον
450 ἔφυρον εἰκῇ πάντα, κοῦτε πλινθυφεῖς
δόμους προσείλους¹⁰ ᾗσαν, οὐ ξυλουργίαν·

¹ [425-430] Badham.

² δὴ M, δὲ recc.

³ ἀκαμαντοδέτοις M, ἀδαμαντοδέτοις F¹,

⁴ θεόν M, θεῶν recc.

[†One other Titan god alone have I ere now beheld in distress, enthralled in torment by adamantine bonds—even Atlas, pre-eminent in mighty strength, who moaneth the while as he supports the vault of heaven upon his back.†]

And the waves of the sea utter a cry as they fall, the deep laments, the black abyss of Hades rumbles in response, and the streams of pure-flowing rivers lament thy piteous pain.

PROMETHEUS

Nay, impute it not to pride nor yet to wilfulness that I am silent. Painful thoughts devour my heart as I behold myself maltreated thus. And yet who but I definitely assigned their prerogatives unto these upstart gods? But of this I speak not; for my tale would tell you naught save what ye know. But hearken to the miseries that beset mankind—how that they were witless erst and I made them to have sense and be endowed with reason. Nor will I speak to upbraid mankind, but to set forth the friendly purpose that inspired my boons.

First of all, though they had eyes to see, they saw to no avail; they had ears, but understood not; but, like to shapes in dreams, throughout their length of days, without purpose they wrought all things in confusion. Knowledge had they neither of houses built of bricks and turned to face the sun, nor yet of work in wood; but dwelt beneath the

⁵ ἀτλανθ' ὥς M, ἀτλανθ' ὅς recc.: Halm. [αἰὲν] Halm.

⁶ ὑπείροχον M recc., ὑπέροχον HB. ⁷ <στέγων> Wecklein.

⁸ βαθὺς M, βυθός recc.

⁹ προσηλούμενον with ε over η M, προσελ. most recc., προυσελούμενον Vat. 58, Reg. 155.

¹⁰ προσήλους with ει over η M.

- κατώρυχες δ' ἔναιον ὥστ' ἀήσυροι
 μύρμηκες ἄντρων ἐν μυχοῖς ἀνηλίους.
 ἦν δ' οὐδέν αὐτοῖς οὔτε χείματος τέκμαρ
 455 οὔτ' ἀνθεμώδους ἦρος οὔτε καρπίμου
 θέρους βέβαιον, ἀλλ' ἄτερ γνώμης τὸ πᾶν
 ἔπρασσον, ἔστε δὴ σφιν ἀντολὰς ἐγὼ
 ἄστρων ἐδείξα τάς τε δυσκρίτους δύσεις.
 καὶ μὲν ἀριθμόν, ἔξοχον σοφισμάτων,¹
 460 ἐξεῦρον² αὐτοῖς, γραμμάτων τε συνθέσεις,
 μνήμην³ ἀπάντων, μουσομήτορ' ἐργάνην.⁴
 κᾶζευξα πρῶτος ἐν ζυγοῖσι κνώδαλα
 ζεύγλαισι δουλεύοντα σάγμασιν⁵ θ', ὅπως
 465 θνητοῖς μεγίστων διαδόχοι μοχθημάτων
 γένοιθ⁶, ὑφ' ἄρμα τ' ἡγαγον φιληνίους
 ἵππους, ἄγαλμα τῆς ὑπερπλοῦτου χλιδῆς.
 θαλασσόπλαγκτα⁷ δ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἀντ' ἐμοῦ
 λινόπτερ' ἤρε⁸ ναυτίλων⁹ ὀχήματα.
 τοιαῦτα μηχανήματ' ἐξευρών τάλας
 470 βροτοῖσιν, αὐτὸς οὐκ ἔχω σόφισμ' ὅτῳ¹⁰
 τῆς νῦν παρούσης πημονῆς ἀπαλλαγῶ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- πέπονθας αἰκὲς¹¹ πῆμ'. ἀποσφαλεῖς φρενῶν
 πλανῶ, κακὸς δ' ἱατρὸς ὥς τις ἐς νόσον
 πεσὼν ἀθυμεῖς καὶ σεαυτὸν οὐκ ἔχεις
 475 εὐρεῖν ὁποίοις φαρμάκοις ἰάσιμος.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- τὰ λοιπά μου κλύουσα θαυμάσῃ πλέον,
¹ νομισμάτων M, σοφισμάτων marg. m¹, Stob. Ecl. ii. 4. 2.
² ἐξεῦρον M, ἐξηῦρον Stob. Ecl. ii. 4. 2.
³ μνήμην M, μνήμην θ' m¹ and other mss.
⁴ ἐργάν . . . M, ἐργάνην m¹ (in erasure) and other mss.,
 ἐργάνην Stob. Ecl. ii. 4. 2.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

ground like swarming ants, in sunless caves. They had no sign either of winter or of flowery spring or of fruitful summer, whereon they could depend, but in everything they wrought without judgment, until such time as I taught them to discern the risings of the stars and their settings, ere this ill distinguishable.

Aye, and numbers, too, chiefest of sciences, I invented for them, and the combining of letters, creative mother of the Muses' arts, wherewith to hold all things in memory. I, too, first brought brute beasts beneath the yoke to be subject to the collar and the pack-saddle, that they might bear in men's stead their heaviest burdens; and to the chariot I harnessed horses and made them obedient to the rein, to be an adornment of wealth and luxury. 'Twas I and no one else that contrived the mariner's flaxen-winged car to roam the sea.

Wretched that I am—such are the inventions I devised for mankind, yet have myself no cunning wherewith to rid me of my present suffering.

CHORUS

Thou hast suffered sorrow and humiliation. Thou art forsaken of thy wits and art gone astray; and, like an unskilled leech, fallen ill, thou lovest heart and canst not discover what remedies to minister to thine own disease.

PROMETHEUS

Hear but the rest and thou shalt wonder the

⁵ σώμασιν : Pauw.

⁶ γένωνθ' : Dawes.

⁷ θαλασσόπλακτα M, θαλασσόπλαγκτα m.

⁸ εἶρε M.

⁹ ναυτιλόχων M, ναυτίλων recc.

¹⁰ σοφισμάτων M (δτω superscribed m¹). ¹¹ αἰεὶς : Porson.

οἷας τέχνας τε καὶ πόρους ἐμυσάμην.
 τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, εἴ τις ἐς¹ νόσον πέσοι,
 οὐκ ἦν ἀλέξην· οὐδέν, οὔτε² βρώσιμον,
 480 οὐ χριστόν, οὐδὲ πιστόν, ἀλλὰ φαρμάκων
 χρεῖα κατεσκέλλοντο, πρὶν γ' ἐγὼ σφισιν
 ἔδειξα κράσεις ἡπίων ἀκεσμάτων,
 αἷς τὰς ἀπάσας ἐξαμύνονται νόσους.
 τρόπους τε πολλοὺς μαντικῆς ἐστοίχισα,
 485 κᾶκρινα πρῶτος ἐξ ὀνειράτων ἃ χρὴ
 ὕπαρ γενέσθαι, κληδόνας τε δυσκρίτους
 ἐγνώρισ' αὐτοῖς ἐνοδίους τε συμβόλους·
 γαμψωνύχων τε πτησιν οἰωνῶν σκεθρῶς
 διώρισ', οὔτινές τε δεξιῶι φύσιν
 490 εὐωνύμους τε, καὶ δίαιταν ἦντινα
 ἔχουσ' ἕκαστοι, καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους τίνες
 ἔχθραι τε καὶ στέργηθρα καὶ συνεδρία·
 σπλάγχνων τε λειότητα, καὶ χροῖαν τίνα
 ἔχουσ'³ ἂν εἴη δαίμοσιν πρὸς ἡδονὴν
 495 χολή,⁴ λοβοῦ τε ποικίλην εὐμορφίαν·
 κνίσση τε κῶλα συγκαλυπτὰ καὶ μακρὰν
 ὀσφύν πυρώσας δυστέκμαρτον ἐς τέχνην
 ᾧδωσα θνητοὺς, καὶ φλογωπὰ σήματα
 ἐξωμμάτωσα, πρόσθεν ὄντ' ἐπάργεμα.
 500 τοιαῦτα μὲν δὴ ταῦτ'· ἔνερθε δὲ χθονὸς
 κεκρυμμέν' ἀνθρώποισιν ὠφελήματα,
 χαλκόν, σίδηρον,⁵ ἄργυρον, χρυσόν τε τίς
 φήσειεν ἂν ἀροίθην ἐξευρεῖν ἐμοῦ;
 οὐδεῖς, σάφ' οἶδα, μὴ μάτην φλύσαι θέλων.
 505 βραχεὶ δὲ μύθῳ πάντα⁶ συλλήβδην μάθε,
 πᾶσαι τέχναι βροτοῖσιν ἐκ Προμηθέως.

¹ εἰς M most recc., ἐς recc.

³ ἔχοντ' : Wieseler.

² οὔτε M, οὔτε recc.

⁴ χολῆς : Wieseler.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

more at the arts and resources I devised. This first and foremost: if ever man fell ill, there was no defence—no healing food, no ointment, nor any draught—but for lack of medicine they wasted away, until I showed them how to mix soothing remedies wherewith they now ward off all their disorders. And I marked out many ways whereby they might read the future, and among dreams I first discerned which are destined to come true; and voices baffling interpretation I explained to them, and signs from meetings by the way. The flight of crook-taloned birds I distinguished clearly—which by nature are auspicious, which sinister—their various modes of life, their mutual feuds and loves, and their consortings; and the smoothness of their entrails, and what colour the gall must have to please the gods, and the speckled symmetry of the liver-lobe; and the thigh-bones, enwrapped in fat, and the long chine I burned and initiated mankind into an occult art. Also I cleared their vision to discern signs from flames, erstwhile obscure. So much then touching these arts. Now as to the benefits to men that lay concealed beneath the earth—bronze, iron, silver, and gold—who would claim to have discovered them before me? No one, I know full well, unless he were fain to babble idly. Hear the sum of the whole matter in the compass of one brief word—every art possessed by man comes from Prometheus.

⁵ σίδαρον M, σίδηρον recc.

⁶ ταῦτα M, πάντα recc.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μή νυν βροτοὺς μὲν ὠφέλει καιροῦ πέρα,
 σαυτοῦ δ' ἀκήδει δυστυχοῦντος· ὥς ἐγὼ
 εὐελπίς εἰμι τῶνδ' ἐκ δεσμῶν ἔτι
 510 λυθέντα μηδὲν μείον ἰσχύσειν Διός.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

οὐ ταῦτα ταύτῃ Μοῖρά πω τελεσφόρος
 κρᾶναι πέπρωται, μυρίαῖς δὲ πημοναῖς
 δύαις τε καμφθεὶς ὦδε δεσμὰ φυγγάνω·
 τέχνη δ' ἀνάγκης ἀσθενεστέρα μακρῶ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

515 τίς οὖν ἀνάγκης ἐστὶν οἰακοστροφός;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

Μοῖραι τρίμορφοι μνήμονές τ' Ἑρινύες.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τούτων ἄρα Ζεὺς ἐστὶν ἀσθενέστερος;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

οὐκ οὖν ἂν ἐκφύγοι γε τὴν πεπρωμένην.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί γὰρ πέπρωται Ζηνὶ πλήν¹ αἰεὶ κρατεῖν;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

520 τοῦτ' οὐκέτ' ἂν² πύθοιο μηδὲ λιπάρει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἦ πού τι σεμνόν ἐστὶν ὁ ξυναμπέχεις.

¹ πρὶν M, πλὴν recc.
 260

² οὐκ ἂν οὖν M, οὐκέτ' ἂν QFK.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Do not then benefit mortals beyond due measure
and yet be heedless of thine own distress ; forasmuch
as I am of good hope that thou shalt yet be loosed
from these bonds and have power no wise inferior
to Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

Not thus, nor yet, is fulfilling Fate destined to bring
this end to pass. When I have been bent by pangs
and tortures infinite, thus only am I to escape my
bondage. Art is feebler far than Necessity.

CHORUS

Who then is the steersman of Necessity ?

PROMETHEUS

The triform Fates and mindful Furies.

CHORUS

Can it be that Zeus hath lesser power than they ?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, in that at least he cannot escape what is
foredoomed.

CHORUS

Why, what is foredoomed for Zeus save to hold
eternal sway ?

PROMETHEUS

This thou must not learn as yet ; be not impor-
tunate.

CHORUS

'Tis some solemn secret, surely, that thou dost
enshroud in mystery.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

525 ἄλλου λόγου μέμνησθε, τόνδε δ' οὐδαμῶς
καιρὸς γεγωνεῖν, ἀλλὰ συγκαλυπτέος
ὅσον μάλιστα· τόνδε γὰρ σώζων ἐγὼ
δεσμούς· ἀεικέεις καὶ δῦας ἐκφυγάνω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μηδὰμ' ὁ πάντα νέμων [στρ. α.
θεῖτ' ἐμὰ γνώμα κράτος ἀντίπαλον Ζεὺς,
μηδ' ἐλινύσαιμι θεοὺς ὅσiais θοί-
530 ναις ποτινισσομένα
βουφόνοις παρ' Ὀκεανοῦ πατρὸς ἄσβεστον
πόρον,
535 μηδ' ἀλίτοιμι λόγοις·
ἀλλὰ μοι τόδ' ἐμμένοι καὶ μήποτ' ἐκτακείη·
ἀδύ' τι θαρσαλέαις [ἀντ. α.
τὸν μακρὸν τείνειν βίον ἐλπίσι, φαναῖς
θυμὸν ἀλδαίνουσας ἐν εὐφροσύναις. φρίσ-
540 σω δέ σε δερκομένα
μυρίοις μόχθοις διακναιόμενον - - -
Ζῆνα γὰρ οὐ τρομέων
ἰδία γνώμα σέβῃ θνατοὺς ἄγαν, Προμηθεῦ.
545 φέρ' ὅπως ἄχαρις χάρις,² ὦ φίλος. [στρ. β.
εἰπέ ποῦ τίς³ ἀλκά;
τίς ἐφαμερίων ἄρηξις; οὐδ' ἐδέρχθης
ὀλιγοδρανίαν ἄκικυν,
ἰσόνειρον, ᾗ τὸ φωτῶν
550 ἀλαδὸν γένος ἐμπεποδισμένον; οὐποτε - -
τὰν Διὸς ἀρμονίαν θνατῶν παρεξίασι βουλαί.
ἔμαθον τάδε σὰς προσιδούσ'⁴ ὅλο- [ἀντ. β.
ὰς τύχας, Προμηθεῦ.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Bethink ye of some other theme, for 'tis in no wise meet time to discourse of this. At every hazard this must be kept concealed; for 'tis by safeguarding it that I am to escape my ignominious bonds and outrage.

CHORUS

Never may Zeus, the dispenser of all things, set his power in conflict with my will, nor may I be slow to approach the gods, with holy sacrifices of oxen slain, by the side of the ceaseless stream of Oceanus, my sire; and may I not offend in speech; but may this rule abide in my heart and never fade away.

Sweet it is to pass all the length of life amid confident hopes, feeding fat the heart in glad festivities. But I shudder as I look on thee, racked by tortures infinite. For thou hast no fear of Zeus, Prometheus, but in self-will dost reverence mortals overmuch.

See now, my friend, how bootless was thy boon. Tell me, what succour for thee is there, and where, in creatures of a day? What aid? Didst thou not behold the helpless infirmity, no better than a dream, wherein the purblind generation of men is shackled? Never shall the counsels of mortal men transgress the ordering of Zeus.

This is the lesson I have learned from beholding the fate, Prometheus, that has wrought thy ruin.

¹ ἡδύ: Hermann.

² χάρις ἀχαρίς MSS. except N (ἀχαρίς χάρις).

³ τις M, τῆς recc.

⁴ προῖδοῦσ' M, προσιδοῦσ' recc.

- 555 τὸ διαμφίδιον δέ μοι μέλος προσέπτα
τόδ' ἐκεῖνό θ' ὃ τ'¹ ἀμφὶ λουτρὰ
καὶ λέχος σὸν ὑμεναίου
560 ἰότατι γάμων, ὅτε τὰν ὁμοπάτριον ἔδνοις
ἄγαγες Ἡσιόνα πείθων² δάμαρτα κοινόλεκτρον.

ΙΩ

- τίς γῆ; τί γένος; τίνα φῶ λεύσσειν
τόνδε χαλινοῖς³ ἐν πετρίνοιςιν
χειμαζόμενον;
τίνος ἀμπλακίας ποιῶς ὀλέκη;
σήμενον ὅποι
565 γῆς ἢ μογερά πεπλάνημαι.
ᾧ ᾧ, ἔ ἔ,⁴
χρίει τις αὖ με τὰν⁵ τάλαιναν οἰστρος,⁶
εἶδωλον Ἄργου γηγενοῦς, ἄλευ' ᾧ δᾶ⁷
φοβοῦμαι⁸
τὸν μυριωπὸν εἰσορώσα βούταν.
ὁ δὲ πορεύεται δόλιον ὅμμ' ἔχων,
570 ὃν οὐδὲ κατθανόντα γαῖα κεῖθι.
ἀλλ' ἐμὲ τὰν τάλαιναν
ἐξ ἐνέρων περῶν κυναγετεῖ,⁹ πλανᾷ
τε νῆστιν ἀνά τὰν παραλίαν ψάμμαν.
575 ὑπὸ δὲ κηρόπακτος¹⁰ ὀτοβεῖ δόναξ [στρ. α.
ἀχέτας ὑπνοδόταν νόμον.
ἰὼ ἰὼ πόποι,¹¹ ποῖ¹² μ' ἄγουσι τη-

¹ ἐκεῖν' ὅτε τότ' M, ἐκεῖνό τε ὅτ' or ἐκεῖνό θ' ὅτ' recc.: Vict.

² πείθων M, πιθῶν m¹. ³ χαλινοῖσιν M, χαλινοῖς recc.

⁴ ᾧ ᾧ ἔ ἔ M, ᾧ ᾧ ἔα most recc.

⁵ με M, με τὰν recc.

⁶ οἰστροῖς M, οἰστρος m¹.

⁷ ἄλευ or ἄλευ' ᾧ δᾶ M (blurred), ἀλευάδα schol. M recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

And the difference in the strain stole into my thought—this strain and that, which, about thy bridal bed and bath, I raised to grace thy marriage, what time thou didst woo with gifts and win my sister Hesione to be thy wedded wife.

[Enter Io¹

Io

What land is this? What people? By what name am I to call him I behold exposed to the tempest in bonds of rock? What offence hast thou committed that for penalty thou art doomed to destruction? Tell me to what region of the earth I have wandered in my wretchedness? Oh, oh! Again a gad-fly, phantom of earth-born Argus, stings me to my misery. Keep him aloof, O Earth! I am fearful when I behold that myriad-eyed herdsman. He travels onward with his crafty gaze upon me; nor even in death doth the earth conceal him, but passing from the shades he hounds me, the forlorn one, and drives me famished along the sands of the sea-shore.

And the clear-sounding wax-compacted pipe drones forth in accompaniment a slumberous strain. Alas, alas! Whither am I borne in my far-roaming

¹ In vase-paintings after the time of Aeschylus, and possibly due to his influence, Io was often represented as wearing horns to symbolize her transformation into a heifer. The pure beast-type was the rule in earlier vases.

⁸ φοβοῦμαι almost all mss. ⁹ κυνηγεῖ: Brunck.

¹⁰ κηρόπλαστος: Meineke.

¹¹ ποῖ ποῖ π' οἱ π' ὅπ' οἱ M: Seidler. ¹² πῆ M, ποῖ recc.

- λέπλαγκτοι πλάναι¹;
 τί ποτέ μ', ὦ Κρόνιε παῖ, τί ποτε ταῖσδ'
 ἐνέζευξας εὐρὼν ἀμαρτοῦσαν ἐν
 580 πημοναῖσιν; ἔ' ε',²
 οἰστρηλάτῳ δὲ δείματι
 δειλαίαν παράκοπον ὦδε τείρεις;
 πυρί <με>³ φλέξον, ἥ χθονὶ κάλυψον, ἥ
 ποντίοις⁴ δάκεσι δὸς βοράν,
 μηδὲ μοι φθονήσης
 εὐγμάτων, ἄναξ.
 585 ἄδην με πολὺπλανοὶ πλάναι
 γεγυμνάκασιν, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν ὅπα⁵
 πημονὰς ἀλύξω.
 ἔκλυεις φθέγμα τὰς βούκερω παρθένου;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- πῶς δ' οὐ κλύω τῆς οἰστροδινῆτος κόρης,
 590 τῆς Ἰναχείας; ἥ Διὸς θάλπει κέαρ
 ἔρωτι, καὶ νῦν τοὺς ὑπερμήκεις δρόμους
 Ἥρα στυγητὸς πρὸς βίαν γυμνάζεται.

ΙΩ

- πόθεν ἐμοῦ σὺ πατρὸς ὄνομ' ἀπύεις; [ἀντ. α.
 εἰπέ μοι τῇ μογερά τῖς ὦν; *
 595 τῖς ἄρα μ', ὦ τάλας, τὰν τάλαιναν' ὦδ'
 ἔτυμα προσθροεῖς;
 θεόσυντόν⁸ τε νόσον ὠνόμασας, ἃ
 μαραίνει με χρίουσα κέντροις, <ιώ>,⁹
 φοιταλέοισιν,¹⁰ ἔ' ε'.¹¹

¹ πλάνοι M, πλάναι m¹.

² ε' recc.

³ <με> Elmsley.

⁴ ποντίοισι M, ποντίοις recc.

⁵ ὅπη: Schütz.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

wandering course? Wherein, O son of Cronus, wherein hast thou found offence in me that thou hast bound me to this yoke of misery—ah me! and dost thus harass a wretched maiden to frenzy by the terror of the pursuing gad-fly? Consume me with fire, or hide me in the earth, or give me to the monsters of the deep to devour; and grudge me not, O Lord, the boon that I implore. Enough of discipline have my far-roaming wanderings taught me, and I cannot discern how to escape my sufferings. Dost thou hear the voice of the horned virgin?

PROMETHEUS

How can I fail to hear the maiden frenzied by the gad-fly, the daughter of Inachus? She it is who fires the heart of Zeus with passion, and now, through Hera's hate, is disciplined perforce by wandering interminable.

Io

How comes it that thou voicest my father's name? Tell me, the hapless maid, who art thou, unhappy wretch, that thou thus rightly dost address the miserable maiden, and hast named the heaven-sent plague that wastes and stings me with its maddening goad. Ah me!

⁶ l. 588 given to Io by Elmsley, to Chorus by MSS.

⁷ *ταλαιπωρον*: Wilam. ⁸ *θεόσσυντόν* most MSS., *θεόσυντόν* N.

⁹ *κέντροισι*: *κέντροις*, *ιώ* Reisig.

¹⁰ *φοιταλέουσιν* most MSS., *φοιταλέοις* N.

¹¹ *ε* *ε* M.

- 600 σκιρτημάτων δὲ νήσιουσιν
αἰκείαις¹ λαβρόσυτος² ἦλθον, <ῥῥας>³
ἐπικότοισι μῆδεσι δαμείσα. δυσ-
δαιμόνων δὲ τίνες οἷ, ἐ ἐ,
οἷ ἐγὼ μογοῦσιν;
ἀλλὰ μοι τορῶς
605 τέκμηρον ὃ τι μ' ἐπαμμένει
παθεῖν, τί μῆχαρ,⁴ ἢ τί φάρμακον νόσου,
δεῖξον, εἴπερ οἶσθα.
θρόει, φράζε τῷ⁵ δυσπλάνῳ παρθένῳ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 610 λέξω τορῶς σοι πᾶν ὅπερ⁶ χρήξεις μαθεῖν,
οὐκ ἐμπλέκων αἰνίγματ', ἀλλ' ἀπλῶ λόγῳ,
ὥσπερ δίκαιον πρὸς φίλους οὔγειν στόμα.
πυρὸς βροτοῖς δοτῆρ' ὀρᾶς Προμηθέα.

ΙΩ

ὦ κοινὸν ὠφέλημα θνητοῖσιν φανείς,
τλήμον Προμηθεῦ, τοῦ δίκην πάσχεις τάδε;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

- 615 ἄρμοι πέπαυμαι τοὺς ἐμοὺς θρηγῶν πόνους.

ΙΩ

οὐκουν πόροις ἂν τήνδε δωρεᾶν ἐμοί;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

λέγ' ἦντιν' αἰτῇ⁷. πᾶν γὰρ ἂν⁸ πύθοιό μου.

ΙΩ

σήμερον ὅστις ἐν φάραγγί σ' ὥχμασεν.

¹ αἰκείαις : Elmsley.

² λαβρόσυτος most mss., λαβρόσυτος N.

³ <ῥῥας> Herm.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

In frenzied bounds I come, driven by torturing hunger, victim of Hera's vengeful purpose. Who of the company of the unfortunate endure—ah me!—sufferings such as mine? Oh make plain to me what misery it is my fate yet to suffer, what remedy there is, or what cure, of my affliction. Reveal it, if thou hast the knowledge. Oh speak, declare it to the hapless, wandering virgin.

PROMETHEUS

I will tell thee plainly all that thou art fain to know, not weaving riddles, but in simple language, even as is right to open the lips to friends. Behold, I whom thou seest am Prometheus, that gave fire unto mankind.

Io

O thou who hast shown thyself a common benefactor of mankind, wretched Prometheus, for what reason dost thou suffer thus?

PROMETHEUS

I have but just now done with lamenting my own calamities.

Io

Thou wilt not then vouchsafe this boon to me?

• PROMETHEUS

Say what boon it is that thou dost crave; for thou canst learn all from me.

Io

Tell me who hath bound thee fast in this ravine.

⁴ τί μὴ χρῆ M: τί μὴ χαρ, τί Elmsley, ἢ τί I. Fr. Martin.

⁵ φράξετε M, φράξε τῶ recc.

⁶ ὅτι: ὅπερ Porson from *Et. Mag.* 762. 30.

⁷ αἰρεῖ M, αἰρεῖ m.

⁸ γὰρ οὖν M, γὰρ ἂν Pγρ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

βούλευμα μὲν τὸ Δῖον, Ἡφαίστου δὲ χεῖρ.

ΙΩ

620 ποινὰς δὲ ποίων ἀμπλακημάτων τίνεις;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τοσοῦτον ἄρκῳ σοι σαφηνίσας¹ μόνον.

ΙΩ

καὶ πρὸς γε τούτοις τέρμα τῆς ἐμῆς πλάνης
δεῖξον, τίς ἔσται τῇ τάλαιπώρῳ χρόνος.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τὸ μὴ μαθεῖν σοι κρεῖσσον ἢ μαθεῖν τάδε.

ΙΩ

625 μήτοι με κρύψῃς τοῦθ' ὅπερ μέλλω παθεῖν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἀλλ' οὐ μεγαίρω τοῦδέ σοι² δωρήματος.

ΙΩ

τί δῆτα μέλλεις μὴ οὐ³ γεγωνίσκειν τὸ πᾶν;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

φθόνος μὲν οὐδεῖς, σὰς δ' ὀκνῶ θρᾶξαι φρένας.

ΙΩ

μή μου προκῆδου μάσσον ὥς ἐμοὶ γλυκύ.

¹ σαφηνῆσαι changed to σαφηνίσαι M: Linwood.

² τοῦδε τοῦ: Turn.

³ μὴ M, μὴ οὐ m.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Zeus by his will, Hephaestus by his hand.

Io

And of what manner of offence dost thou pay the penalty?

PROMETHEUS

It sufficeth that I have made clear to thee thus much and no more.

Io

Nay, reveal besides the goal of my wandering—what time is set for wretched me.

PROMETHEUS

Ignorance of this were better for thee than to know thereof.

Io

Do not, I pray thee, hide from me what I am doomed to suffer.

PROMETHEUS

Nay, 'tis not that I am loath to grant this boon to thee.

Io

Why then this thy reluctance to tell me all?

PROMETHEUS

I am nothing loath; but I shrink to crush thy heart.

Io

Be not more kind to me than I myself desire.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

630 ἐπεὶ προθυμῇ, χρὴ λέγειν· ἄκουε δῆ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μήπω γε· μοῖραν δ' ἡδονῆς κάμοι πόρε.
τὴν τῆσδε πρῶτον ἱστορήσωμεν νόσον,
αὐτῆς λεγούσης τὰς πολυφθόρους τύχας·
τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ἄθλων σοῦ διδαχθήτω πάρα.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

635 σὸν ἔργον, Ἰοῖ, ταῖσδ' ὑπουργῆσαι χάριν,
ἄλλως τε πάντως καὶ κασιγνήταις πατρός.
ὥς τὰποκλαῦσαι κάποδύρασθαι τύχας
ἐνταῦθ', ὅπου¹ μέλλοι τις οἴσεσθαι δάκρυ
πρὸς τῶν κλυόντων, ἀξίαν τριβὴν ἔχει.

ΙΩ

640 οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ὑμῖν ἀπιστῆσαί με χρὴ,
σαφεῖ δὲ μύθῳ πᾶν ὅπερ προσχρήζετε
πεύσεσθε· καίτοι καὶ λέγουσ' αἰσχύνομαι²
θεόσσυτον χειμῶνα καὶ διαφθορὰν
μορφῆς, ὅθεν μοι σχετλία προσέπτατο.
645 αἰεὶ γὰρ ὄψεις ἐννυχοὶ πωλεύμεναι
ἐς παρθενῶνας τοὺς ἐμούς παρηγόρουν
λείοισι μύθοις “ὦ μέγ' εὐδαιμον³ κόρη,
τί παρθελεύει δαρὸν, ἔξόν σοι γάμου
τυχεῖν μεγίστου; Ζεὺς γὰρ ἱμέρου βέλει
650 πρὸς σοῦ τέθαλπται καὶ συναίρεσθαι Κύπριν
θέλει· σὺ δ', ὦ παῖ, μὴ ὀλακτίσης λέχος
τὸ Ζηνός, ἀλλ' ἔξελθε πρὸς Λέρνης βαθύν

¹ ὅπου most mss., ὅποι P²B², ὅπη QKL.

² αἰσχύνομαι m N, ὀδύρομαι M and most mss.

³ εὐδαιμων M, εὐδαιμον m.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Since thou art bent to have it so, speak I must.
Hear me then.

CHORUS

Nay, not yet. Grant us too a portion of the pleasure. Let us first inquire the story of her affliction and let her with her own lips relate the events that brought upon her sore calamity. Then let her be instructed by thee as to the toils still to come.

PROMETHEUS

'Tis for thee, Io, to grant this favour unto them—and for this cause above all, that they are the sisters of thy sire. For 'tis worth the while to indulge in weeping and in wailing over evil fortunes when one is like to win the tribute of a tear from the listener.

Io

I know not how I may refuse you. Ye shall learn in truthful speech all that ye would further know. Yet I am ashamed even in telling of the storm of calamity sent of Heaven, of the marring of my form, and of the source whence it swooped upon me, wretched that I am.

For visions of the night, ever haunting my virgin bower, sought to beguile me with seductive words, saying: "O damsel greatly blest of fortune, why tarry in thy maidenhood so long when it is within thy power to win a union of the highest? Zeus is inflamed by thee with passion's dart and is eager to unite in love with thee. Do thou, my child, not spurn the bed of Zeus, but go thou forth to Lerna's meadow land of pastures deep and to thy

λειμῶνα, ποίμνας βουστάσεις τε πρὸς πατρός,
ὡς ἂν τὸ Δῖον ὄμμα λωφήσῃ πόθου."

655 τοιοῖσδε πάσας εὐφρόνας ὀνείρασι
συνειχόμεν δύστηνος, ἔστε δὴ πατρὶ
ἔτλην γεγωνεῖν νυκτίφοιτ'¹ ὀνείρατα.
ὁ δ' ἔς τε Πυθῶ καπὶ Δωδώνης πυκνοὺς
θεοπρόπους ἱαλλεν, ὡς μάθοι τί χρῆ
660 δρῶντ' ἢ λέγοντα δαίμοσιν πράσσειν φίλα.²
ἦκον δ' ἀναγγέλλοντες αἰολοστόμους
χρησμοὺς ἀσήμους δυσκρίτως τ' εἰρημένους.
τέλος δ' ἐναργῆς βάξις ἦλθεν Ἰνάχῳ
σαφῶς ἐπισκῆπτουσα καὶ μυθουμένη
665 ἔξω δόμων τε καὶ πάτρας ὠθεῖν ἐμέ,
ἄφετον ἀλᾶσθαι γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις ὄροις.
κεῖ μὴ θέλοι, πυρωπὸν³ ἐκ Διὸς μολεῖν
κεραυνόν, ὃς πᾶν ἐξαῖστώσοι⁴ γένος.

τοιοῖσδε πεισθεῖς Λοξίου μαντεύμασιν
670 ἐξήλασέν με καπέκλεψε δωμάτων
ἄκουσαν ἄκων· ἀλλ' ἐπηνάγκαζέ νιν
Διὸς χαλινὸς πρὸς βίαν πράσσειν τάδε.
εὐθὺς δὲ μορφὴ καὶ φρένες διάστροφοι
ἦσαν, κεραστὶς δ', ὡς ὁράτ', ὀξυστόμῳ
675 μύωπι χρισθεῖς ἐμμανεῖ σκιρτήματι
ἦσσαν πρὸς εὐποτόν τε Κερχναίας ῥέος
Λέρνης τε κρήνην⁵. βουκόλος δὲ γηγενῆς
ἄκρατος ὀργὴν Ἄργος ὠμάρτει, πυκνοῖς
ὄσσοις δεδορκῶς τοὺς ἐμοὺς κατὰ στίβους.
680 ἀπροσδόκητος δ' αὐτὸν ἀφνίδιος⁶ μόρος
τοῦ ζῆν ἀπεστέρησεν. οἰστροπλήξ δ' ἐγὼ
μάστιγι θείᾳ γῆν προῖ γῆς ἐλαύνομαι.
κλύεις τὰ πραχθέντ'⁷· εἰ δ' ἔχεις εἰπεῖν ὅ τι⁸

¹ νυκτίφαντ' M, νυκτίφοιτ' recc.

² φίλῳ M, φίλα m¹.

father's flocks and where his cattle browse, that so the eye of Zeus may find respite from its longing."

By such dreams was I, to my distress, beset night after night, until at last I gained courage to tell my father of the dreams that haunted me. And he sent many a messenger to Pytho and Dodona-ward that he might discover what deed or word of his would find favour with the gods. But they returned with report of oracles, riddling, obscure, and darkly worded. But at the last there came an unmistakable utterance unto Inachus, charging and commanding him clearly that he must thrust me forth from home and native land to roam at large to the remotest confines of the earth; and, if he would not, a fiery thunderbolt should come from Zeus that would utterly bring to naught his whole race.

Yielding obedience to such prophetic utterances of Loxias, he drove me forth and barred me from his house, against his will and mine; but the curb of Zeus constrained him so to act perforce. Forth-with my form and mind were distorted, and with horns, as ye see, upon my front, stung by a sharp-fanged gad-fly I rushed with frantic bounds to Cerchnea's sweet stream and Lerna's spring. But the earth-born herdsman, untempered in his rage, even Argus, followed ever close upon me, peering with his many eyes upon my steps. But a sudden death reft him of life at unawares; while I, still tormented by the gad-fly, am driven on from land to land before the heaven-sent scourge.

Such is the tale of what befel; and if thou canst

³ πυρωτόν M, πυρωτόν recc.

⁴ ἐξαίστως: Blomfield.

⁵ ἀκρην τε: Canter.

⁶ αἰφνίδιος: Elmsley.

⁷ πρὸ most mss., πρὸς m LN.

⁸ ἔτι most mss., ὅτι V¹ Aldina.

λοιπὸν ἰόνων, σήμαινε· μηδέ μ' οἰκτίσας
685 ξύνθαλπε μύθοις ψευδέσιν· νόσημα γὰρ
αἷσχιστον εἶναι φημι συνθέτους λόγους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἔα ἔα, ἄπεχε, φεῦ·
οὐπότ' οὐπότ' ἠὔχουν¹ <ᾧδε>² ξένους
μολεῖσθαι λόγους εἰς ἀκοὰν ἐμάν,
690 οὐδ' ᾧδε δυσθέατα καὶ³ δύσοιστα
πήματα, λύματα, [δείματα]⁴ ἀμ-
φάκει⁵ κέντρῳ τύψει⁶ ψυχὰν ἐμάν.
ἰὼ [ἰὼ]⁷ μοῖρα μοῖρα,
695 πέφρικ' εἰσιδοῦσα⁸ πρᾶξιν Ἴουδς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

πρῶ γε στενάζεις καὶ φόβου πλέα τις εἶ·
ἐπίσχες ἔστ' ἂν καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ προσμάθης.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

λέγ', ἐκδίδασκε· τοῖς νοσοῦσί τοι γλυκὺ
τὸ λοιπὸν ἄλγος προυξέπιστασθαι τορῶς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τὴν πρὶν γε χρεῖαν⁹ ἠνύσασθ' ἐμοῦ πάρα
κούφως· μαθεῖν γὰρ τῇσδε πρῶτ' ἐχρήζετο
τὸν ἀμφ' ἐαυτῆς ἄθλον ἐξηγουμένης·
τὰ λοιπὰ νῦν ἀκούσαθ', οἷα χρὴ πάθῃ
τλῆναι πρὸς Ἥρας τήνδε τὴν νεάνίδα.
705 σύ τ', Ἰνάχειον σπέρμα, τοὺς ἐμούςς λόγους
θυμῷ βάλλ',¹⁰ ὥς ἂν τέρματ' ἐκμάθῃς ὁδοῦ.

¹ ἠύχουν M, ἠύχουν schol. M recc.

² <ᾧδε> Wilam. (as second word, Weckl.).

³ δυσθέατα M, δυσθέατα καὶ recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

declare what toils still remain, oh reveal them. Do not, of thy pity, seek to cozen me by words untrue; for foulest of plagues do I account dissembling words.

CHORUS

Ah, ah, avault, alas! Never, oh never, did I dream that words so strange would greet mine ears; nor yet that sufferings so grievous to look upon, aye and so grievous to endure, a tale of outrage, would smite my soul as with double-pronged goad. Alas, O Fate, O Fate, I shudder at beholding the plight that hath befallen Io.

PROMETHEUS

Too soon thou makest lament and art full of fear. Forbear until thou hast learned the rest as well.

CHORUS

Proceed, tell all. To the sick 'tis solace clearly to know beforehand what pain still awaiteth them.

PROMETHEUS

Your former request ye lightly gained from me; for ye desired first of all to learn from her own lips the story of her ordeal. Hear now the sequel, the sufferings this maid is fated to endure at Hera's hand. And do thou, offspring of Inachus, lay to heart my words that thou mayest learn the goal of thy wanderings.

⁴ [δέματα] Herm. ⁵ ἀμφήκει: Weil. ⁶ ψύχειν: Wilam.

⁷ [ιδ] Weil.

⁸ εἰσιδοῦσα M, εἰσιδοῦσα recc.

⁹ χρεῖαν τ' M, χρεῖαν recc.

¹⁰ μάθ' M, βάλ' recc.

- πρῶτον μὲν ἐνθὲνδ' ἡλίου πρὸς ἀντολὰς
στρέψασα σαυτὴν στεῖχ' ἀνηρότους γύας·
710 Σκύθας δ' ἀφίξῃ νομάδας, οἱ πλεκτὰς στέγας
πεδάρσιοι ναίουσ' ¹ ἐπ' εὐκύκλοις ὄχοις,
ἐκηβόλοις τόξοισιν ἐξηρτυμένοι ².
οἷς μὴ πελάζειν, ἀλλ' ἀλιστόνοις πόδας ³
χρίμπτουσα ῥαχίαισιν ἐκπερᾶν χθόνα.
λαϊᾶς δὲ χειρὸς οἱ σιδηροτέκτονες
715 οἰκοῦσι Χάλυβες, οὓς φυλάξασθαί σε χρή.
ἀνήμεροι γὰρ οὐδὲ πρόσπλατοι ⁴ ξένοις.
ἦξεις δ' Ὑβριστὴν ποταμὸν οὐ ψευδώνυμον,
ὃν μὴ περάσῃς, οὐ γὰρ εὐβατος περᾶν,
πρὶν ἂν πρὸς αὐτὸν Καύκασον μολῇς, ὀρῶν
720 ὑψιστον, ἔνθα ποταμὸς ἐκφυσᾷ μένος
κροτάφων ἀπ' αὐτῶν. ἀστρογείτονας δὲ χρή
κορυφὰς ὑπερβάλλουσιν ἐς μεσημβρινὴν
βῆναι κέλευθον, ἔνθ' Ἀμαζόνων στρατὸν
ἦξεις στυγάνορ', αἱ Θεμίσκυράν ποτε
725 κατοικιοῦσιν ⁵ ἀμφὶ Θερμώδονθ', ἵνα
τραχεῖα πόντου Σαλμυδησσία γνάθος
ἐχθρόξενος ναῦταισι, μητρὶά ⁶ νεῶν.
αὐταὶ σ' ὀδηγήσουσι καὶ μάλ' ἀσμένως.
ἰσθμὸν δ' ἐπ' αὐταῖς στενοπόροις λίμνης πύλαις
730 Κιμμερικὸν ἦξεις, ὃν θρασυτπλάγχχως σε χρή
λιποῦσαν αὐλῶν' ἐκπερᾶν Μαιωτικόν.
ἔσται δὲ θνητοῖς εἰσαεὶ λόγος μέγας
τῆς σῆς πορείας, Βόσπορος δ' ἐπώνυμος

¹ νέουσ' M, ναίουσ' recc.

² ἐξηρτημένοι most mss., ἐξηρτυμένοι Q¹.

³ γυπόδας M, ων over as m¹: Turn.

⁴ πρόσπλαστοι: Elmsley.

⁵ κατοικιοῦσιν M, κατοικιοῦσιν m¹.

⁶ μητρὶά M, μητρὶά m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

First, from this spot, turn thyself toward the rising sun and wend thy steps over untilled plains ; and thou shalt reach the Scythian nomads, who dwell, perched aloft, in wattled houses on strong-wheeled wains, and are accoutred with far-darting bows. Approach them not, but keeping thy feet nigh the rugged strand, whereon the sea breaks with a roar, pass on beyond their land. On the left hand dwell the workers in iron, the Chalybes, and of them thou must beware, since they are savage and not to be approached by strangers. Then thou shalt reach the river Hybristes,¹ which does not belie its name. Do not cross this—for it is hard to cross—until thou comest to Caucasus itself, loftiest of mountains, where from its very brows the river pours out its might in fury. Over its crests, which neighbour the stars, thou must pass and enter upon a southward course, wherein thou shalt reach the host of the Amazons, who loathe all men. They shall in time to come inhabit Themiscyra on the Thermodon, where, fronting the sea, is Salmydessus' rugged jaw, evil host of mariners, step-dame of ships. The Amazons will guide thee on thy way right gladly. Next, just at the narrow portals of the mere, thou shalt reach the Cimmerian isthmus. This thou must leave with stout heart and pass through the channel of Maeotis ; and ever after among mankind there shall be great mention of thy passing, and it shall be called after thee the

¹ Ὑβριστής, "Violent," from ὕβρις, "violence."

- κεκλήσεται. λιποῦσα δ' Εὐρώπης πέδον
 735 ἥπειρον ἥξεις Ἀσιάδ'. ἀρ' ὑμῖν δοκεῖ
 ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ἐς τὰ πάνθ' ὁμῶς
 βίαιος εἶναι; τῇδε γὰρ θνητῇ θεὸς
 χρῆζων μιγῆναι τάσδ' ἐπέρριψεν πλάνας.
 740 μνηστῆρος. οὗς γὰρ νῦν ἀκήκοας λόγους,
 εἶναι δόκει σοι μηδέπω ¹ προοιμίοις.

ΙΩ

ὦ μοί μοι, εἴ ἔ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σὺ δ' αὖ κέκραγας κἀναμυχθίζῃ; τί που
 δράσεις, ὅταν τὰ λοιπὰ πυνθάνῃ κακά;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- 745 ἦ γάρ τι λοιπὸν τῇδε πημάτων ἐρεῖς;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

δυσχείμερόν γε πέλαγος ἀτηρᾶς δύης.

ΙΩ

- τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ ζῆν κέρδος, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν τάχει
 ἔρριψ' ἐμαυτὴν τῆσδ' ἀπὸ στύφλου πέτρας,
 750 ὅπως πέδοι² σκήψασα τῶν πέντων πόνων
 ἀπηλλάγην; κρεῖσσον γὰρ εἰσάπαξ θανεῖν
 ἢ τὰς ἀπάσας ἡμέρας πάσχειν κακῶς.

¹ μηδ ἐπὼν : Turn.

² πέδω : Dindorf.

¹ Βόσπορος, by popular etymology derived from βοῦς and πόρος, "passing of the cow" (cp. *Ox-ford*), is, according to Wecklein, a Thracian form of Φωσφόρος, "light-bearing," an epithet of the goddess Hecate. The dialectal form, once
 280

PROMETHEUS BOUND

Bosporus.¹ Then, leaving the soil of Europe, thou shalt come to the Asian continent.

Doth it not seem to you that the tyrant of the gods is violent in all his ways alike? For this god, desirous of union with this mortal maid, has imposed upon her these wanderings. Maiden, thou hast gained a suitor for thy hand whom thou hast cause to rue. As to the tale thou now hast heard—believe that it has not even reached the prelude.

Io

Ah me, ah me, alas!

PROMETHEUS

What! Dost again cry out and groan? What wilt thou do, I wonder, when thou hast learned the sufferings still in store for thee?

CHORUS

What! Can it be that thou hast sufferings still left to recount to her?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, a tempestuous sea of calamitous distress.

Io

What gain have I then in life? Why did I not hurl myself amain from this rugged rock, that so I had been dashed to earth and freed from all my sufferings? Better it were to die once for all than linger out all my days in misery.

misunderstood, was then, it is conjectured, transferred from the Thracian (cp. *Pers.* 746) to the Crimean strait. In the *Suppliants* Aeschylus makes Io cross the *Thracian* Bosporus.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

755 ἥ δυσπετώσ¹ ἄν τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἄθλους φέροις,
ὅτῳ θανεῖν μὲν ἔστιν οὐ πεπρωμένον·
αὕτη γὰρ ἦν ἄν πημάτων ἀπαλλαγὴ·
νῦν δ' οὐδέν ἐστι τέρμα μοι προκείμενον
μόχθων, πρὶν ἄν Ζεὺς ἐκπέσῃ τυραννίδος.

ΙΩ

ἥ γάρ ποτ' ἔστιν ἐκπεσεῖν ἀρχῆς Δία;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἦδοι' ἄν,² οἶμαι, τήνδ' ἰδοῦσα συμφορὰν.

ΙΩ

πῶς δ' οὐκ ἄν, ἥτις ἐκ Διὸς πάσχω κακῶς;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

760 ὥς τοίνυν ὄντων τῶνδ' ἐσσι μαθεῖν³ πάρα.

ΙΩ

πρὸς τοῦ τύραννα σκῆπτρα συληθήσεται;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

πρὸς αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ κενοφρόνων βουλευμάτων.

ΙΩ

ποίῳ τρόπῳ; σήμερον, εἰ μή τις βλάβη.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

γαμεῖ γάμον τοιοῦτον ᾧ ποτ' ἀσχαλᾷ.

¹ ἡδυσπετώσ changed to ἡδυπετώσ M, ἥ δυσπετώσ recs.
² ἦδοιμ' ἄν most mss., ἦδοι' ἄν HN.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Ah, hardly would'st thou bear my agonies to whom it is not foredoomed to die ; for death had freed me from my sufferings. But now no limit to my tribulations has been appointed till Zeus be hurled from his sovereignty.

Io

What ! Shall Zeus one day be hurled from his dominion ?

PROMETHEUS

Thou wouldst rejoice, I trow, to see that happen.

Io

How should I not, since 'tis at the hand of Zeus I suffer ill ?

PROMETHEUS

Then thou mayest assure thyself that these things are so.

Io

By whom shall he be despoiled of the sceptre of his sovereignty ?

PROMETHEUS

By himself and his own empty-headed purposes.

Io

In what wise ? Oh tell me, if there be no harm in telling.

PROMETHEUS

He shall make a marriage that shall one day cause him ruth.

³ μαθεῖν σοι (ν σοι in erasure M) most mss., σοι μαθεῖν N.

ΙΩ

765 θέορτον, ἢ βρότειον; εἰ ῥητόν, φράσον.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τί δ' ὄντιν'; οὐ γὰρ ῥητόν αὐδᾶσθαι τόδε.

ΙΩ

ἦ πρὸς δάμαρτος ἐξανίσταται θρόνων;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἦ τέξεταί γε παῖδα φέρτερον πατρός.

ΙΩ

οὐδ' ἔστιν αὐτῷ τῆσδ' ἀποστροφὴ τύχης;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

770 οὐ δῆτα, πλὴν ἔγωγ' ἂν ἐκ δεσμῶν λυθείς.

ΙΩ

τίς οὖν ὁ λύσων ἐστὶν ἄκοντος Διός;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τῶν σῶν τιν' αὐτὸν¹ ἐγγόνων εἶναι χρεών.

ΙΩ

πῶς εἶπας; ἦ 'μὸς παῖς σ' ἀπαλλάξει κακῶν;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τρίτος γε γένναν πρὸς δέκ' ἄλλαισιν γοναῖς.

ΙΩ

775 ἦδ' οὐκέτ' εὐξύμβλητος ἢ χρησιμωδία.

¹ αὐτῶν M, αὐτὸν recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

Io

With one divine of birth or with a mortal? If it may be told, speak out.

PROMETHEUS

Why ask with whom? Of this I may not speak.

Io

Is it by his consort that he shall be dethroned?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, since she shall bear a son mightier than his sire.

Io

And hath he no means to avert this doom?

PROMETHEUS

No, none—except it were I, released from bondage.

Io

Who then is to loose thee against the will of Zeus?

PROMETHEUS

It is to be one of thine own lineage.

Io

How sayest thou? A child of mine release thee from thy misery?

PROMETHEUS

Even so—the third in descent after ten generations.

Io

Here it is beyond my power easily to grasp the purport of thy prophecy.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

καὶ μηδὲ στυγῆς¹ ἐκμαθεῖν ζητεῖ πόνους.

ΙΩ

μή μοι προτείνων κέρδος εἴτ' ἀποστέρει.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

δυοῖν λόγοιν σε θατέρω δωρήσομαι.

ΙΩ

ποίοιν; πρόδειξον, αἵρεσίν τ' ἐμοὶ δίδου.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

780 δίδωμ'. ἐλοῦ γάρ, ἢ πόνων τὰ λοιπά σοι
φράσω σαφηνῶς, ἢ τὸν ἐκλύσοντ' ἐμέ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τούτων σὺ τὴν μὲν τῇδε, τὴν δ' ἐμοὶ χάριν
θέσθαι θέλησον, μηδ' ἀτιμάσης λόγου².
καὶ τῇδε μὲν γέγωνε τὴν λοιπὴν πλάνην,
785 ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν λύσοντα· τοῦτο γὰρ ποθῶ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἐπεὶ προθυμεῖσθ', οὐκ ἐναντιώσομαι
τὸ μὴ οὐ³ γεγωνεῖν πᾶν ὅσον προσχρήζετε.
σοὶ πρῶτον, Ἰοῖ, πολύδονον πλάνην φράσω,
ἣν ἐγγράφου σὺ μνήμοσιν δέλτοις φρενῶν.
790 ὅταν περάσης ρεῖθρον ἡπείρου⁴ ὄρον,
πρὸς ἀντολὰς φλογώπας ἡλιοστιβεῖς⁵

¹ στυγῆς τ' M, στυγῆς recc.

³ μὴ M, μὴ οὐ m.

² λόγους: Elmsley.

⁴ ἡπείρων: Herwerden.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

PROMETHEUS

Aye, and so seek not to learn the full extent of
thine own sufferings.

Io

Do not proffer me a boon and then withdraw it.

PROMETHEUS

I will present thee with one or other of two tales.

Io

What two? Set them forth and offer me the
choice.

PROMETHEUS

I make the offer: so take thy choice whether I
shall reveal the sufferings still in store for thee or
who is to be my deliverer.

CHORUS

Consent to bestow on her the one of these favours,
and on me the other; and deny me not the tale. To
her, tell of her further wanderings; to me, who
is to deliver thee—for this I am fain to know.

PROMETHEUS

Well, since ye art bent thereon, I will not refuse to
proclaim all ye still crave to know. First, to thee, Io,
will I declare thy much-vexed wandering, and do
thou engrave it on the recording tablets of thy
mind.

When thou hast crossed the stream that bounds
the two continents, toward the flaming east, where

⁵ Lacuna of one or more lines (there is no main clause):
Brunck, Heath.

- πόντου¹ περῶσα φλοῖσβον, ἔστ' ἂν ἐξίκη
 πρὸς Γοργόνεια πεδία Κισθήνης, ἵνα
 αἱ Φορκίδες ναίουσι δηναῖαι κόραι
 795 τρεῖς κυκνόμορφοι, κοινὸν ὄμμ' ἐκτμημένοι,
 μονόδοντες,² ἃς οὐθ' ἥλιος προσδέρεται
 ἀκτίσιν οὐθ' ἡ νύκτερος μήνη ποτέ.
 πέλας δ' ἀδελφαὶ τῶνδε τρεῖς κατάπτεροι,
 800 δρακοντόμαλλοι Γοργόνες βροτοστρυγεῖς,
 ἃς θνητὸς οὐδεὶς εἰσιδὼν ἔξει πνοάς.
 τοιοῦτο μὲν σοι τοῦτο φρούριον λέγω·
 ἄλλην δ' ἄκουσον δυσχερῇ θεωρίαν·
 ὀξύστομους³ γὰρ Ζηνὸς ἀκραγεῖς κύνας
 γρυπάς φύλαξαι, τὸν τε μουνῶπα⁴ στρατὸν
 805 Ἀριμασπὸν ἵπποβάμον', οἳ χρυσόρρυτον
 οἰκοῦσιν ἀμφὶ νᾶμα Πλούτωνος πόρου.⁵
 τούτοις σὺ μὴ πέλαζε. τηλουρὸν δὲ γῆν
 ἤξεις, κελαινὸν φύλον, οἳ πρὸς ἡλίου
 ναίουσι πηγαῖς, ἔνθα ποταμὸς Αἰθίοψ.
 810 τούτου παρ' ὄχθας ἔρφ', ἕως ἂν ἐξίκη
 καταβασμόν, ἔνθα Βιβλίνων⁶ ὄρων ἄπο
 ἵησι σεπτὸν Νεῖλος εὖποτον ῥέος.
 οὗτός σ' ὀδώσει⁷ τὴν τρίγωνον ἐς χθόνα
 Νειλῶτιν, οὗ δὴ τὴν μακρὰν ἀποικίαν,
 815 Ἰοῖ, πέπρωται σοὶ τε καὶ τέκνοις κτίσαι.
 τῶν δ' εἴ τί σοι ψελλὸν τε καὶ δυσεῦρετον,
 ἐπαναδίπλαζε καὶ σαφῶς ἐκμάνθανε·
⁸σχολὴ δὲ πλείων ἢ θέλω πάρεστί μοι.

¹ πόντον M, πόντου recc. ² μονώδοντες M, μονόδοντες recc.

³ ὀξύστομου with s superscr. M.

⁴ μουνῶπα M, μουνῶπαν m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

walks the sun, crossing the surging sea until thou reachest the Gorgonean plains of Cisthene, where dwell the daughters of Phorcys, ancient maids, in number three, of shape like swans, possessing one eye amongst them and a single tooth; upon them neither doth the sun with his beams look down, nor ever the nightly moon. And near them are their winged sisters three, the snake-haired Gorgons, loathed of mankind, whom no one of mortal kind shall look upon and still draw breath. Such is the peril that I bid thee guard against. But now hearken to another and a fearsome spectacle. Beware the sharp-beaked hounds of Zeus that bark not, the gryphons, and the one-eyed Arimaspians folk, mounted on horses, who dwell about the flood of Pluto's¹ stream that flows with gold. Approach them not. Then thou shalt come to a far-off country of a swart race that dwells by the waters of the sun, where is the river Aethiop. Follow up along its banks till thou reach the cataract, where, from the Bybline mountains, Nile sends forth his hallowed and sweet stream. He will conduct thee on thy way to the three-angled land of Nilotis, where, at last, it is ordained for thee, O Io, and for thy children to found thy far-off colony.

If aught of this is indistinct to thee and hard to understand, do thou question me yet again, and gain a clear account; for I have more leisure than I crave.

¹ Πλούτων is an abbreviation of Πλουτοδότης or Πλουτοδοτήρ, "giver of wealth"; hence the apparent confusion with Πλούτος.

⁵ πόρον M, πόρου schol. M recc.

⁶ βιβλίνων M, βυβλίνων recc.

⁷ οὔτοσσε δώσει M changed to οὕτως σ' ὀδώσει.

⁸ l. 818, omitted in M, supplied by m.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

820 εἰ μὲν τι τῇδε λοιπὸν ἢ παρειμένον
ἔχεις γεγωνεῖν τῆς πολυφθόρου πλάνης,
λέγ'· εἰ δὲ πάντ' εἴρηκας, ἡμῖν αὖ χάριν
δὸς ἥνπερ¹ αἰτούμεσθα, μέμνησαι δέ που.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τὸ πᾶν πορείας ἦδε τέρμ' ἀκήκοεν.
ὅπως δ' ἂν εἶδῃ μὴ μάτην κλύουσά μου,
825 ἃ πρὶν μολεῖν δεῦρ' ἐκμεμόχθηκεν φράσω,
τεκμήριον τοῦτ' αὐτὸ δούς μύθων ἐμῶν.
ὄχλον μὲν οὖν τὸν πλείστον ἐκλείψω λόγων,
πρὸς αὐτὸ δ' εἶμι τέρμα σῶν πλανημάτων.
ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθες πρὸς Μολοσσά γάπεδα,²
830 τὴν αἰπύνωντόν τ' ἄμφι Δωδώνην, ἵνα
μαντεῖα θακός³ τ'⁴ ἐστὶ Θεσπρωτοῦ Διός,
τέρας τ' ἄπιστον, αἱ προσήγοροι δρύες,
ὑφ' ὧν σὺ λαμπρῶς κοῦδέν αἰνικτηρίως
προσηγορεύθης ἢ Διὸς κλεινὴ δάμαρ
835 μέλλουσ' ἔσσεσθαι· τῶνδε προσσαίνει σέ τι⁵;
ἐντεῦθεν οἰστρήσασα τὴν παρακτίαν
κέλευθον ἦξας πρὸς μέγαν κόλπον Ῥέας,
ἀφ' οὗ παλιμπλάγκτοισι χειμάζῃ δρόμοις·
χρόνον δὲ τὸν μέλλοντα πόμπιος μυχός,
840 σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', Ἰόνιος κεκλήσεται,⁶
τῆς σῆς πορείας μνήμα τοῖς πᾶσιν βροτοῖς.
σημεῖά σοι τάδ' ἐστὶ τῆς ἐμῆς φρενός,
ὥς δέρκεται πλέον τι τοῦ πεφασμένου.
τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ὑμῖν τῇδὲ τ' ἐς κοινὸν φράσω,
845 ἐς ταῦτόν ἐλθὼν τῶν πάλοι λόγων ἔχνος.

¹ ἥντιν' : Herm.

² γάπεδα : Porson.

³ θακος : Brunck.

⁴ τ' added by m.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

If there be aught still remaining or passed over of her direful wandering that thou hast to tell, oh speak. But if thou hast told all, grant us in turn the favour we request—and belike thou hast it still in memory.

PROMETHEUS

She hath now heard the full end of her journeyings; yet that she may know that what she hath heard from me was no vain tale, I will describe the toils she has endured ere she came hither, giving this as a sure proof of my account.

Yet most of the weary tale I shall leave out and come to the very close of thy wanderings.

For when thou didst reach the Molossian plains and the sheer ridge that encircles Dodona, where is the prophetic seat of Thesprotian Zeus and that marvel, passing all belief, the talking oaks, by which thou clearly, and in no riddling terms, wast saluted as the renowned spouse of Zeus that was to be (does aught of this make appeal to thee?), thence, stung by the gad-fly, thou didst rush along the pathway by the shore to the great gulf of Rhea, wherefrom thou art tossed in backward-wandering course; and for all time to come a recess of the sea, be well assured, shall bear the name *Ionian*, as a memorial of thy crossing unto all mankind.

These, then, are the tokens to thee of my understanding, to show that it discerneth more than has been made manifest. The rest I shall declare to you and her in common, returning to the track of my former tale.

⁵ προσαίν, εἰς. τί M, προσαίνει σίτι and (marg.) σ' ἔτι m¹,
προσαίνει σέ τι recc. ⁶ κληθήσεται M, κεκλήσεται recc.

ἔστιν πόλις Κάνωβος ἐσχάτη χθονός,
 Νείλου πρὸς αὐτῷ στόματι καὶ προσχώματι·
 ἐνταῦθα δὴ σε Ζεὺς τίθησιν¹ ἔμφρονα
 ἐπαφῶν ἀταρβεῖ χειρὶ καὶ θιγῶν μόνον.
 850 ἐπώνυμον δὲ τῶν Διὸς γεννημάτων
 τέξεις κελαινὸν Ἐπαφον, ὃς καρπώσεται
 ὄσσην πλατύρρους Νείλος ἀρδεύει χθόνα·
 πέμπτη δ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ γέννα πεντηκοντάπαις²
 πάλιν πρὸς Ἄργος οὐχ ἑκοῦσ' ἐλεύσεται
 855 θηλύσπορος,³ φεύγουσα συγγενῇ γάμον
 ἀνεψιῶν· οἱ δ' ἐπτοημένοι φρένας,
 κίρκοι πελειῶν οὐ μακρὰν λελειμμένοι,
 ἥξουσι θηρεύοντες⁴ οὐ θηρασίμους
 γάμους, φθόνον δὲ σωματῶν ἔξει θεός·
 860 Πελασγία δὲ δέξεται θηλυκτόνῃ
 Ἄρει, δαμέντων νυκτιφρουρήτῃ θράσει·
 γυνὴ γὰρ ἄνδρ' ἕκαστον αἰῶνος στερεῖ,
 δίδηκτον ἐν σφαγαῖσι βάψασα ξίφος·
 τοιάδ' ἐπ'⁵ ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἔλθοι Κύπρις.
 865 μίαν δὲ παίδων ἡμερος θέλξει τὸ μὴ
 κτεῖναι σύνευνον, ἀλλ' ἀπαμβλυνθήσεται⁶
 γνώμην· δυοῖν δὲ θάτερον βουλήσεται,
 κλύειν ἀναλκίς μᾶλλον ἢ μαιφόνος·
 αὕτη κατ' Ἄργος βασιλικὸν τέξει γένος.
 870 μακροῦ λόγου δεῖ ταῦτ' ἐπεξελεῖν τορῶς.
 σπορᾶς γε μὴν ἐκ τῆσδε φύσεται θρασὺς
 τόξοις κλεινός,⁷ ὃς πόνων ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐμὲ

¹ τίθεισιν M, τίθησιν m.

² πεντηκοντόπαις M, πεντηκοντάπαις recc.

³ θηλυσπόρος M, θηλύσπορος recc.

⁴ θηρεύοντες most mss., θηρεύοντες HF¹.

⁵ ἐς most mss., ἐπ' PV.

There is a city, Canobus, on the utmost verge of the land at the very mouth and silt-bar of the Nile. There at last Zeus restores thee to thy senses by the mere stroke and touch of his unterrifying hand. And thou shalt bring forth swart Epaphus,¹ thus named from the manner of Zeus' engendering; and he shall gather the fruit of all the land watered by the broad-flowing Nile. Fifth in descent from him, fifty maidens shall return to Argos, not of their own free choice, but fleeing marriage with their cousin kin; while these, their hearts ablaze with passion, like falcons following hard on doves, shall come in pursuit of wedlock unlawful to pursue; but God shall grudge them enjoyment of their brides. Pelasgian soil shall offer the maids a home, when, in the watches of the night, their husbands have been slain by a deed of daring wrought by women's murderous blows. For each bride shall reave her lord of life, dyeing a two-edged sword in his blood—in such wise may Love come upon mine enemies! But one among the maidens shall love's desire so charm as not to slay her mate; rather the edge of her resolve shall be blunted; for of two evil names she will make her choice to be called coward rather than murderess. She it is that shall give birth in Argos to a royal line—to set this forth at large hath need of long discourse; of her seed, however, shall be born a man of daring, renowned with the bow, who shall deliver me from

¹ Epaphus, "Touch-born," named from the touch (ἐφαψις) of the hand of Zeus. Cp. *Suppl.* 45, 48.

⁶ ἀπαμβλυθήσεται M, ἀπαμβλυνθήσεται recc.

⁷ κλεινοῖς M, κλεινός recc.

λύσει. τοιόνδε χρησμόν ἡ παλαιγενὴς
μήτηρ ἔμοι διήλθε Τιτανίς Θέμις.
875 ὅπως δὲ ῥώπῃ, ταῦτα δεῖ μακροῦ λόγου
εἰπεῖν, σύ τ' οὐδὲν ἐκμαθοῦσα κερδανεῖς.

ΙΩ

ἐλελεῦ, ἐλελεῦ,¹
ὑπό μ' αὖ σφάκελος καὶ φρενοπληγεῖς
μανίαι θάλπουσ', οἷστρου δ' ἄρδις
880 χρίει μ' ἄπυρος.
κράδια² δὲ φόβῳ φρένα λακτίζει.
τροχοδινεῖται δ' ὄμμαθ' ἐλίγδην,
ἔξω δὲ δρόμου φέρομαι λύσσης
πνεύματι μάργῳ, γλώσσης ἀκρατῆς.
885 θολεροὶ δὲ λόγοι παῖουσ'³ εἰκῇ
στυνγῆς πρὸς κύμασιν ἄτης.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἡ σοφὸς ἡ σοφὸς [ῆν]⁴ ὅς [στρ. α.
πρῶτος ἐν γνώμῃ τόδ' ἐβάστασε καὶ γλώσ-
σα διεμυθολόγησεν,
890 ὥς τὸ κηδεῦσαι καθ' ἑαυτὸν ἀριστεύει μακρῶ,
καὶ μήτε τῶν πλούτῳ διαθρυπτομένων
μήτε τῶν γέννα μεγαλυνομένων
ὄντα χερνήταν ἐραστεῦσαι χάμων.
μήποτε μήποτε μ', ὦ [ἀντ. α.
895 <πότνιαι>⁵ Μοῖραι, λεχέων Διὸς εὐνά-
τειραν ἴδοιθε πέλουσαν.
μηδὲ πλαθεῖην γαμέτῃ⁶ τινὶ τῶν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ.
ταρβῶ γὰρ ἀστεργάνορα παρθενίαν

¹ ἐλελελελεῦ M: Pauw.

² καρδία M, κραδία KN.

³ παῖουσ' M, παῖουσ' recc.

⁴ [ῆν] N (Triclinius).

⁵ <πότνιαι> Winckelmann.

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these toils.¹ Such is the oracle recounted to me by my mother, Titan Themis, born of eld. The manner and the means—these need lengthy speech to tell, and to learn them all would not advantage thee in aught.

Io

Eleleu, Eleleu! Once again convulsive pain and frenzy, smiting my brain, inflame me. I am stung by the gad-fly's barb, unforged by fire. My heart in terror knocks at my ribs; my eyeballs roll wildly round and round. I am carried out of my course by a fierce blast of madness; over my tongue I've lost all mastery; and a stream of turbid words beats recklessly against the billows of dark destruction.

[Exit

CHORUS

Ah, sage, sage in sooth, was he who first pondered this truth in his mind and with his tongue gave it utterance—that to marry in one's own degree is far the best, and that neither among them that are puffed up by riches nor among them that are mighty in pride of birth should marriage be desired by him who toileth with his hands.

Never, oh never, august Fates, may ye behold me the partner of the bed of Zeus, and may I be wedded to no bridegroom who descends to me from heaven. For I shudder when I behold the loveless maiden-

¹ Heracles. Accidentally wounded by the poisoned arrow of this descendant of Io, the centaur Chiron offered himself as a substitute for Prometheus, thus fulfilling the prophecy contained in ll. 1026 ff. In a fragment of the *Prometheus Unbound* Heracles is represented as aiming his arrow against the eagle that feasted on the body of Prometheus (l. 1022).

⁶ πλαθείη ἐν γαμέτῳ M, πλασθείην ἐν γαμέτῳ m¹: Canter.

900 εἰσορώσ' Ἰοῦς ἀμαλαπτομέναν¹
 δυσπλάνοις² Ἦρας ἀλατείαις πόνων.

905 ἐμοὶ δ' ὅτε³ μὲν ὀμαλὸς ὁ γάμος, [ἐπωδ.
 ἄφοβος· [οὐ δέδια·]⁴ μηδὲ κρείσσων θεῶν
 ἔρως ἄφυκτον ὄμμα προσδράκοι⁵ με.
 ἀπόλεμος ὅδε γ' ὁ πόλεμος, ἄπορα πόριμος·
 οὐδ' ἔχω τίς ἂν γενοίμαν·
 τὰν Διὸς γὰρ οὐχ ὁρώ
 μῆτιν ὅπα φύγοιμι ἄν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἦ μὴν ἔτι Ζεὺς, καίπερ αὐθάδης φρενῶν,⁶
 ἔσται ταπεινός, οἷον ἐξαρτύεται
 910 γάμον γαμεῖν, ὃς αὐτὸν ἐκ τυραννίδος
 θρόνων τ'⁷ αἴστον ἐκβαλεῖ· πατὴρ δ'⁸ ἄρᾳ
 Κρόνου τότ'⁹ ἤδη παντελῶς κρανήσεται,
 ἦν ἐκπίτνων ἡρᾶτο δηναίων¹⁰ θρόνων.
 τοιῶνδε¹¹ μόχθων ἐκτροπὴν οὐδεὶς θεῶν
 δύναιτ' ἂν αὐτῷ πλήν ἐμοῦ δεῖξαι σαφῶς.
 915 ἐγὼ τὰδ' οἶδα χῶι τρόπῳ. πρὸς ταῦτά νυν¹²
 θαρσῶν καθήσθω τοῖς πεδαρσίοις κτύποις
 πιστός,¹³ τινάσσων τ' ἐν χερσὶν πύρπνον βέλος.
 οὐδὲν γὰρ αὐτῷ ταῦτ' ἐπαρκέσει τὸ μὴ οὐ
 πεσεῖν ἀτίμως πτώματ' οὐκ ἀνασχετά·
 920 τοῖον παλαιστήν νῦν παρασκευάζεται
 ἐπ' αὐτὸς αὐτῷ, δυσμαχώτατον τέρας·
 ὃς δὴ κεραυνοῦ κρείσσον' εὐρήσει¹⁴ φλόγα,
 βροντῆς θ' ὑπερβάλλοντα καρτερὸν κτύπον·

¹ γάμῳ δαπτομέναν M: ἀμαλαπτομέναν Dindorf, after γ.
 ἀμαλ. Weil.

² δυσπλάγχθοις M, δυσπλάνοις recc.

³ ὅτι: Arnaldus.

⁴ [οὐ δέδια] Bothe.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

hood of Io, thus cruelly crushed by her toilsome wanderings sent of Hera.

But to me, when marriage is on equal terms, it is no cause of dread; and never may the love of the mightier gods cast on me its irresistible glance. That were indeed a war against which there is no warring, a source of resourceless misery; and I know not what would be my fate, for I do not see how I could escape the designs of Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

Yea, verily, the day will come when Zeus, howbeit stubborn of soul, shall be humbled, seeing that he purposeth a marriage that shall hurl him into oblivion from his sovereignty and throne; and then shall straightway be fulfilled to the uttermost the malison his father Cronus imprecated as he fell from his ancient throne. Deliverance from such ruin can no one of the gods show him clearly save only myself. I know it and the means thereof. So let him sit there in his assurance, putting his trust in the crash reverberating on high and brandishing in his hands his fire-breathing bolt. For naught shall these avail him against falling in ignominious and unendurable ruin. Such an adversary is he now preparing in his own despite, a prodigy irresistible, even one that shall discover a flame mightier than the levin and a deafening crash to out-roar

⁵ προσδάркоι M, προσδέρκοι recc.: Salvinus.

⁶ αὐθάδης φρενῶν M and many recc., αὐθάδη φρονῶν m¹
QKL. ⁷ θρόνων M, θρόνων τ' recc.

⁸ πατρός τ' most MSS., πατρός δ' Q.

⁹ τόδ' M, τότ' m¹.

¹¹ τοῖνδε M, τοῖωνδε m¹.

¹³ πιστῶς M, πιστὸς m.

¹⁰ δηναῖων M, δηναίων m¹.

¹² νῦν M.

¹⁴ εὐρήσοι M, εὐρήσει recc.

925 θαλασσίαν τε γῆς τινάκτειραν νόσον¹
 τρίαINAN, αἰχμήν τήν Ποσειδῶνος, σκεδᾶ.
 πταίσας δὲ τῷδε πρὸς κακῷ² μαθήσεται
 ὅσον τό τ' ἄρχειν καὶ τὸ δουλεύειν δίχα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

σύ θην ἃ χρῆζεις, ταῦτ' ἐπιγλωσσᾶ Διός.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἅπερ τελεῖται, πρὸς δ' ἃ βούλομαι λέγω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

930 καὶ προσδοκᾶν χρὴ δεσπόσειν Ζηνός τινα;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

καὶ τῶνδ' γ' ἔξει δυσλοφωτέρους πόνους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πῶς δ'³ οὐχὶ ταρβείῃς τοιάδ' ἐκρίπτων ἔπη;

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τί δ' ἂν⁴ φοβοίμην ᾧ θανεῖν οὐ μόρσιμον;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἄλλ' ἀθλον ἄν σοι τοῦδ' ἔτ'⁵ ἀλγίω πόροι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

935 ὁ δ' οὖν ποιείτω· πάντα προσδοκητά μοι.

¹ νόσων changed to νόσον M. But the passage is not free from corruption.

² κακῶν M, κακῷ m¹ recc.

⁴ δαί M, δ' ἂν recc.

³ πῶς M, πῶς δ' recc.

⁵ τοῦδ' γ' : Elmsley.

¹ The poet adopts the legend that Poseidon was a rival with Zeus for the hand of Thetis, of whose son it had been

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the thunder; a prodigy that shall shiver the trident, Poseidon's spear, that scourge of the sea and shaker of the land.¹ Then, wrecked upon this evil, Zeus shall learn how different it is to be a sovereign and a slave.

CHORUS

Sooth, 'tis only thine own desire that thou dost imprecate against Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

I speak what shall be brought to pass and, moreover, mine own desire.

CHORUS

Must we really look for one to gain mastery over Zeus?

PROMETHEUS

Aye, and he shall bear upon his neck pangs more galling than these of mine.

CHORUS

How is it that thou knowest no fear in uttering such taunts?

PROMETHEUS

Why should I fear whose fate is not to die?

CHORUS

But he might inflict on thee an ordeal more bitter still than this.

PROMETHEUS

Let him, for aught I care! I am prepared for all, prophesied by Themis that he should be mightier than his sire. The prophecy was fulfilled in the person of Peleus' son, Achilles.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οἱ προσκυνοῦντες τὴν Ἀδράστειαν σοφοί.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σέβου, προσεύχου, θώπτε¹ τὸν κρατοῦντ' αἰεί.
 ἐμοὶ δ' ἔλασσον Ζηγὸς ἢ μηδὲν μέλει.
 940 δράττω, κρατεῖτω τόνδε τὸν βραχὺν χρόνον,
 ὅπως θέλει· δαρὸν γὰρ οὐκ ἄρξει θεοῖς.
 ἀλλ' εἰσορῶ γὰρ τόνδε τὸν Διὸς τρόχιν,
 τὸν τοῦ τυράννου τοῦ νέου διάκονον·
 πάντως τι καινὸν ἀγγελῶν ἐλήλυθεν.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

σὲ τὸν σοφιστὴν, τὸν πικρῶς ὑπέρπικρον,
 945 τὸν ἐξαμαρτόντ' εἰς θεοὺς ἐφημέροις²
 πορόντα τιμάς, τὸν πυρὸς κλέπτην λέγω·
 πατὴρ ἄνωγέ σ' οὔστινας κομπεῖς γάμους
 αὐδᾶν, πρὸς ὧν³ ἐκεῖνος ἐκπίπτει κράτους·
 καὶ ταῦτα μέντοι μηδὲν αἰνικτηρίως,
 950 ἀλλ' αὐθ' ἕκαστα φράζε⁴· μηδέ μοι διπλᾶς
 ὁδοὺς, Προμηθεῦ, προσβάλῃς· ὁρᾶς δ' ὅτι
 Ζεὺς τοῖς τοιούτοις οὐχὶ μαλθακίζεται.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σεμνόστομός γε καὶ φρονήμετος πλέως
 ὁ μῦθος ἐστίν, ὥς θεῶν ὑπηρέτου.
 955 νέον νέοι κρατεῖτε καὶ δοκεῖτε δὴ
 ναίειν ἀπενθῇ πέργαμ'· οὐκ ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ
 δισσοὺς τυράννους ἐκπεσόντας ἡσθόμην;
 τρίτον δὲ τὸν νῦν κοιρανοῦντ' ἐπόψομαι

¹ θώπτε M, θώπτε m.

² τὸν ἡμέροις M, ἐφημέροις or τὸν ἐφημέροις recc.

³ ὧν τ': Elmsley.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

CHORUS

Wise are they who do homage to Necessity.¹

PROMETHEUS

Worship, adore, and fawn upon whoever is thy lord. But I care for Zeus less than naught. Let him do his will, let him hold his power for his little day—since not for long shall he bear sway over the gods. But stay, for yonder I behold his lackey, the servitor of our new lord and master. Assuredly he hath come to harbinger some news.

[*Enter Hermes*

HERMES

To thee, the clever and crafty, bitter beyond all bitterness, who hast sinned against the gods in bestowing honours upon creatures of a day, and art the thief of fire—to thee I speak. The Father bids thee tell what marriage thou vauntest whereby he is to be hurled from power—and this, mark well, set forth in no riddling fashion, but point by point, as the case exactly stands; and do not impose upon me a double journey, Prometheus—thou seest Zeus is not appeased by dealing such as thine.

PROMETHEUS

Bravely spoken,*in truth, and swollen with pride thy speech, as befits a minion of the gods. Young ye are, as young your power, and ye think forsooth that ye inhabit heights beyond the reach of grief. Have I not seen two sovereigns cast out from these heights? A third, the present lord, I shall live to see

¹ Adrasteia, “the inescapable,” another name of Nemesis, punished presumptuous words and excessive happiness.

⁴ ἑκάστα φράζε Μ, ἑκάστ’ ἐκφράζε recc.

960 αἴσχιστα καὶ τάχιστα. μή τί σοι δοκῶ
ταρβεῖν ὑποπτήσσειν τε τοὺς νέους θεούς;
πολλοῦ γε καὶ τοῦ παντὸς ἐλλείπω. σὺ δέ¹
κέλευθον ἦνπερ ἦλθες ἐγκόνηι πάλιν·
πεύσῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν ὦν ἀνιστορεῖς ἐμέ.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

965 τοιοῖσδε μέντοι καὶ πρὶν αὐθαδίσμασιν
ἐς τάσδε σαυτὸν πημονὰς καθώρμισας.²

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

τῆς σῆς λατρείας τὴν ἐμὴν δυσπραξίαν,
σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', οὐκ ἂν ἀλλάξαιμ' ἐγώ.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ἄκρεῖσσον γὰρ οἶμαι τῇδε λατρεύειν πέτρα
ἢ πατρὶ φῦναι⁴ Ζηνὶ πιστὸν⁵ ἄγγελον.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

970 οὕτως ὑβρίζειν τοὺς ὑβρίζοντας χρεών.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

χλιδᾶν ἔοικας τοῖς παροῦσι πράγμασι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

χλιδῶ; χλιδῶντας ὥδε τοὺς ἐμούς ἐγὼ
ἐχθροὺς ἵδοιμ'· καὶ σέ δ' ἐν τούτοις λέγω.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ἦ κάμῃ γάρ τι συμφοραῖς ἐπαιτιᾷ;

¹ δὲ M, γε recc.

² καθώρ' οσας (ο made from ι or ω) M, καθώρμισας recc.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

cast out in ruin most shameful and most swift. Dost think I quail, perchance, and cower before these upstart gods? Far from it—nay, not at all. But scurry thee back the way thou camest; for thou shalt learn naught whereof thou questionest me.

HERMES

Yet it was by like proud wilfulness before, too, that thou didst bring thyself to this harbour of distress.

PROMETHEUS

For thy servitude, rest thee sure, I'd not barter my hard lot, not I.

HERMES

Better, no doubt, to serve this rock than be the trusted messenger of Father Zeus!

PROMETHEUS

Such is the proper style for the insolent to offer insult.

HERMES

Methinks thou revellest in thy present plight.

PROMETHEUS

I revel? Oh, that I might see mine enemies revelling thus! And thee, too, I count among them.

HERMES

What! Thou blamest me in some wise for thy calamities?

³ ll. 968-969 given to Hermes by Tyrwhitt, Erfurdt, to Prometheus by M.

⁴ φῆναι MSS. except Lips.² (φῦναι).

⁵ πιστόν δ' (γ' m¹) M, πιστόν recc.

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

975 ἀπλῶ λόγῳ τοὺς πάντας ἐχθαίρω θεούς,
ὅσοι παθόντες εἶδ' ἀκαχοῦσιν μ' ἐκδίκως.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

κλύω σ' ἐγὼ μεμνηνός· οὐ σμικρὰν¹ νόσον.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

νοσοῦμι' ἄν, εἰ νόσημα τοὺς ἐχθροὺς στυγεῖν.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

εἵης φορητὸς οὐκ ἄν, εἰ πρᾶσσοις καλῶς.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

980 <ὦ μοι.>²

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ὦ μοι; τόδε Ζεὺς τοῦτος οὐκ ἐπίσταται.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ἀλλ' ἐκδιδάσκει πάνθ' ὁ γηράσκων χρόνος.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

καὶ μὴν σύ γ' οὐπω σωφρονεῖν ἐπίστασαι.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

σέ γάρ προσηύδων οὐκ ἄν ὄνθ' ὑπηρέτην.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ἐρεῖν ἔοικας οὐδὲν ὦν χρήζει πατήρ.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

985 καὶ μὴν ὀφείλων γ' ἄν τίνοιμι' αὐτῷ χάριν.

¹ μικρὰν: Brunck.

² ΠΡ. ὦ μοι. ΕΡ. τόδε . . . ἐπίσταται: Lachmann.

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PROMETHEUS

In one word, I hate all the gods that received good at my hands and with ill requite me wrongfully.

HERMES

Thy words declare thee stricken with no slight madness.

PROMETHEUS

Mad I may be—if it is madness to loathe one's enemies.

HERMES

Thou wouldst be unbearable wert thou prosperous.

PROMETHEUS

Alas !

HERMES

“ Alas ” ? That is a word unknown to Zeus.

PROMETHEUS

But ever-ageing Time teaches all things.

HERMES

Aye, but thou at least hast not yet learned to keep a sober mind.

PROMETHEUS

Else then I had not been addressing thee, an underling.

HERMES

It seems thou wilt answer naught that the Father demands.

PROMETHEUS

Aye, truly, I am his debtor that I should repay favour unto him.

AESCHYLUS

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ἐκερτόμησας δῆθεν ὡς παῖδ' ὄντα με.¹

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

οὐ γὰρ σὺ παῖς τε κᾶτι τοῦδ' ἀνούστερος
εἰ προσδοκᾷς ἐμοῦ τι πεύσεσθαι² πάρα;
οὐκ ἔστιν αἴκισμ' οὐδὲ μηχανήμ' ὅτῳ
990 προτρέψεται³ με Ζεὺς γεγωνῆσαι τάδε,
πρὶν ἂν χαλασθῇ δεσμὰ λυμαντήρια.
πρὸς ταῦτα ριπτέσθω μὲν αἰθαλοῦσσα⁴ φλόξ,
λευκοπτέρῳ δὲ νιφάδι καὶ βροντήμασι
χθονίοις κυκάτω πάντα καὶ ταρασσέτω.
995 γνάμψει⁵ γὰρ οὐδὲν τῶνδέ μ' ὥστε καὶ φράσαι⁶
πρὸς οὐ χρεῶν νιν ἐκπεσεῖν τυραννίδος.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

ὄρα νυν⁷ εἴ σοι ταῦτ' ἄρωγὰ φαίνεται.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ὥπται⁸ πάλαι δὴ καὶ βεβούλευται τάδε.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

τόλμησον, ὦ μάταιε, τόλμησόν ποτε
1000 πρὸς τὰς παρούσας πημονὰς ὀρθῶς φρονεῖν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

ὀχλεῖς μάτην με κῦμ' ὅπως παρηγορῶν.
εἰσελθέτω σε μήποθ'⁹ ὡς ἐγὼ Διὸς
γνώμην φοβηθεῖς θηλύνους γενήσομαι,

¹ ὡς παῖδά με M, ὡς παῖδ' ὄντα με recc.

² πενσεῖσθαι MPQN, πεύσεσθαι recc.

³ προστρέψεται M, προτρέψεται m¹.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

HERMES

Thou girdest at me as though, forsooth, I were a child.

PROMETHEUS

And art thou not a child and even more witless than a child if thou expectest to learn aught from me? There is no torment or device by which Zeus shall induce me to utter this until these injurious fetters be loosed. So then, let his blazing levin be hurled, and with the white wings of the snow and thunders of earthquake let him confound the reeling world. For naught of this shall bend my will even to tell at whose hands he is fated to be hurled from his sovereignty.

HERMES

Look thee now whether this course seems to profit thee.

PROMETHEUS

Long ago hath this my course been foreseen and resolved.

HERMES

Bend thy will, perverse fool, oh bend thy will at last to wisdom in face of thy present sufferings.

PROMETHEUS

In vain thou troublest me, as though it were a wave thou wouldst persuade. Never think that, through terror at the will of Zeus, I shall become

⁴ αἰθάλουσα M, αἰθάλλουσα recc.: Canter.

⁵ γράψει M, γράμψει m.

⁷ γυν M.

⁶ φράσειν M, φράσαι recc.

⁸ ὦ παῖ M, ὠπται schol. M and recc.

⁹ μηπάθ' M, μηπόθ' m¹ recc.

καὶ λιπαρήσω τὸν μέγα στυγούμενον¹
 1005 γυναικομίμοις ὑπτιάσμασιν χερῶν
 λῦσαί με δεσμῶν τῶνδε· τοῦ παντὸς δέω.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

λέγων ἔοικα πολλὰ καὶ μάτην ἔρεῖν.²
 τέγγῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν οὐδὲ μαλθάσῃ λιταῖς
 ἐμαῖς· δακῶν δὲ στόμιον ὡς νεοζυγῆς
 1010 πῶλος βιάζῃ καὶ πρὸς ἡνίας μάχῃ.
 ἀτὰρ σφοδρύνῃ γ' ἀσθενεῖ σοφίσματι·
 αὐθαδία γὰρ τῷ φρονοῦντι μὴ καλῶς
 αὐτῇ καθ' αὐτὴν οὐδενὸς μείζον σθένει.
 σκέψαι δ', ἔαν μὴ τοῖς ἐμοῖς πεισθῆς λόγους,
 1015 οἷός σε χειμῶν καὶ κακῶν τρικυμία
 ἔπεισ' ἄφυκτος³· πρῶτα μὲν γὰρ ὀκρίδα
 φάραγγα βροντῇ καὶ κεραυνία φλογὶ
 πατὴρ σπαράξει τήνδε, καὶ κρύψει δέμας
 τὸ σόν, πετραῖα δ' ἀγκάλη σε βαστάσει.
 1020 μακρὸν δὲ μῆκος ἐκτελευτήσας χρόνου
 ἄψορρον ἥξεις εἰς φάος· Διὸς δέ τοι
 πτηνὸς κύων, δαφεινὸς αἰετός, λάβρως
 διαρταμήσει σώματος μέγα ράκος,
 ἀκλητος ἔρπων δαιταλεὺς πανήμερος,
 1025 κελαινόβρωτον δ' ἦπαρ ἐκθωπήσεται.
 τοιοῦδε μόχθου τέρμα μὴ τι⁴ προσδόκα,
 πρὶν ἂν θεῶν τις διάδοχος τῶν σῶν πόνων
 φανῇ, θελήσῃ τ' εἰς ἀναύγητον μολεῖν
 Ἄιδην κνεφαῖα τ' ἀμφὶ Ταρτάρου βάθῃ.
 1030 πρὸς ταῦτα βούλευ'· ὥς ὃδ' οὐ πεπλασμένους
 ὁ κόμπος, ἀλλὰ καὶ λίαν εἰρημένους⁵.

¹ στυγόμενον M, στυγούμενον m¹.

² ἀλλ' ἔρεῖν μάτην M marg.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

womanish and, with hands upturned, aping woman's ways, shall importune my greatly hated foe to release me from these bonds. I am far, far from that.

HERMES

Methinks with my much speaking I but speak in vain ; for thou art not soothed nor art thou softened by my entreaties. Thou dost take the bit in thy teeth like a new-harnessed colt and art restive and strugglest against the reins. Yet 'tis a paltry device that prompts thy vehemence, for in the foolish-minded mere self-will of itself availeth less than aught at all. But if thou wilt not be won to belief by my words, bethink thee what a tempest and a towering wave of woe shall break upon thee past escape. First, the Father will shatter this jagged cliff with thunder and lightning-flame, and will entomb thy frame, while the rock shall still hold thee clasped in its embrace. But when thou hast completed a long stretch of time, thou shalt come back again to the light. Then verily the winged hound of Zeus, the ravening eagle, coming an unbidden banqueter the whole day long, with savage appetite shall tear thy body piecemeal into great rents and feast his fill upon thy liver till it be black with gnawing.

Look for no term of this thine agony until some god appear to take upon himself thy woes and of his own free will descend into the sunless realm of Death and the dark deeps of Tartarus.

Therefore advise thee, since this is no counterfeited vaunting but utter sooth ; for the mouth of

³ ἀφύκτως M, ἀφυκτος m¹ recc.

⁴ τοί M, τι recc.

⁵ λείαν εἰρημένος (?) changed to λείαν εἰρημένος M.

AESCHYLUS

1035 ψευδηγορεῖν γὰρ οὐκ ἐπίσταται στόμα
τὸ Δίον, ἀλλὰ πᾶν ἔπος τελεῖ. σὺ δὲ
πάπταινε καὶ φρόντιζε, μηδ' αὐθαδίαν
εὐβουλίας ἀμείνον¹ ἡγήση ποτέ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἡμῖν μὲν Ἑρμῆς οὐκ ἄκαιρα φαίνεται
λέγειν· ἄνωγε γάρ σε τὴν αὐθαδίαν
μεθέντ' ἐρευνᾶν τὴν σοφὴν εὐβουλίαν.
πιθοῦ². σοφῷ γὰρ αἰσχροὺς ἐξαμαρτάνειν.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ

1040 εἰδότε τοί μοι τάσδ' ἀγγελίας
ὄδ' ἐθώξεν· πάσχειν δὲ κακῶς
ἐχθρὸν ὑπ' ἐχθρῶν οὐδὲν αἰκές.
πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ριπτέσθω³ μὲν
1045 πυρὸς ἀμφήκης βόστρυχος, αἰθήρ δ'
ἐρεθιζέσθω βροντῇ σφακέλω τ'
ἀγρίων ἀνέμων· χθόνα δ' ἐκ πυθμένων
αὐταῖς ρίζαις πνεῦμα κραδαίνοι,
κῦμα δὲ πόντου τραχεῖ ροθίῳ
συγχώσειεν τῶν⁴ οὐρανίων
1050 ἄστρον διόδους· εἷς τε κελαινὸν
Τάρταρον ἄρδην ρίψει δέμας
τοῦμόν ἀνάγκης στερραῖς δίναις·
πάντως ἐμέ γ' οὐ θανατώσει.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

1055 τοιάδε μέντοι τῶν φρενοπλήκτων
βουλευμάτων' ἔπη τ' ἔστιν ἀκοῦσαι.
τί γὰρ ἐλλείπει μὴ <οὐ>⁵ παραπαίειν
ἢ τοῦδ' εὐχή⁶; τί χαλᾷ μανιῶν;

PROMETHEUS BOUND

Zeus knoweth not how to utter falsehood, but will bring to pass every word. Do thou consider warily and reflect, and never deem stubbornness better than wise counsel.

CHORUS

To us, at least, Hermes seemeth not to speak untimely ; for he bids thee lay aside thy stubbornness and seek the good counsel of wisdom. Be advised ! 'Tis shameful for the wise to persist in error.

PROMETHEUS

No news to me, in truth, is the message this fellow hath proclaimed so noisily. Yet for foe to suffer ill from foe is no disgrace. Therefore let the lightning's forked curl be cast upon my head and let the sky be convulsed with thunder and the wrack of savage winds ; let the hurricane shake the earth from its rooted base, and let the waves of the sea mingle with their savage surge the courses of the stars in heaven ; and let him lift me on high and hurl me down to black Tartarus with the swirling floods of stern Necessity : do what he will, *me* he shall never bring to death.

HERMES

Such indeed are the thoughts and the words one hears from men deranged. Wherein does his prayer fall short of raving ? Wherein does he abate his

¹ ἀμείνον changed to ἀμείνον' M.

² πείθου M, πιθοῦ recc.

³ ἐπὶ μοι ριπτείσθω M, ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ριπτείσθω recc.

⁴ τῶν τ' most mss., τῶν BK¹. Cp. v.l. 421, 461, 700.

⁵ <οὐ> Wecklein.

⁶ ἦ (* added by m) τοῦδ' εὐτυχῇ M, εἰ τὰδ' marg. m¹ : Winckelmann.

1060 ἄλλ' οὖν ὑμεῖς γ' αἰ¹ πημοσύναις
συγκάμνουσαι ταῖς τοῦδε τόπων
μετά ποι² χωρεῖτ' ἐκ τῶνδε θοῶς,
μὴ φρένας ὑμῶν ἡλιθιώσῃ
βροντῆς μύκημ' ἀτέραμνον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

1065 ἄλλο τι φώνει καὶ παραμυθοῦ μ'
ὃ τι καὶ πείσεις· οὐ γὰρ δὴ που
τοῦτό γε τλητὸν παρέσυρας ἔπος.
πῶς με κελεύεις κακότητ' ἄσκεῖν;
μετὰ τοῦδ' ὃ τι χρή πάσχειν ἐθέλω.
τοὺς προδότας γὰρ μισεῖν ἔμαθον,
κοῦκ ἔστι νόσος
1070 τῆσδ' ἦντιν' ἀπέπτυσα μάλλον.

ΕΡΜΗΣ

1075 ἄλλ' οὖν μέμνησθ' ἀγῶ³ προλέγω
μηδὲ πρὸς ἄτης θηραθεῖσαι
μέμψησθε τύχην, μηδέ ποτ' εἵπηθ'
ὥς Ζεὺς ὑμᾶς εἰς ἀπρόοπτον
πῆμ' εἰσέβαλεν· μὴ δῆτ', αὐταὶ δ
ὑμᾶς αὐτάς· εἰδυῖαι γὰρ
κοῦκ ἐξαίφνης οὐδὲ λαθραίως,
εἰς ἀπέρατον⁴ δίκτυον ἄτης
ἐμπλεχθήσεσθ' ὑπ' ἀνοίας.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΨ

1080 καὶ μὴν ἔργω κοῦκέτι μύθῳ
χθῶν σεσάλευται·
βρυχία δ' ἡχῶ παραμυκᾶται
βροντῆς, ἔλικες δ' ἐκλάμπουσι

PROMETHEUS BOUND

frenzy?—But, at all events, do ye who compassionate his anguish, withdraw amain from this spot, lest the relentless roar of the thunder stun your senses.

CHORUS

Use some other strain and urge me to some other course wherein thou art e'en like to convince me. This utterance in thy flood of speech is, I trow, past all endurance. How dost thou charge me to practise baseness? With him I am content to suffer any fate; for I have learned to detest traitors, and there is no pest I abhor more than this.

HERMES

Nay then, bear my warning in memory and blame not your case when ye are caught in the toils of calamity; nor ever say that it was Zeus who cast you into suffering unforeseen. Not so, but blame yourselves. For well forewarned, and not at un-awares or secretly, shall ye be entangled in the inextricable net of calamity by reason of your folly.

[Exit

PROMETHEUS

Lo, now it hath passed from word to deed—the earth rocks, the echoing thunder-peal from the depths rolls roaring past me; the fiery wreathed

¹ γε: γ' ai Turn.

² που most mss., ποι Ven. 3².

³ ἄτ' ἐγὼ most mss., ἃ ἐγὼ F¹: Porson.

⁴ ἀπέρατον M, ἀπέραντον m¹ recc.

- 1085 στεροπῆς ζάπυροι, στρόμβοι δὲ κόνιν
 εἰλίσσουσι¹. σκιρτᾷ δ' ἀνέμων
 πνεύματα πάντων εἰς ἄλληλα
 στάσιν ἀντίπνουν ἀποδεικνύμενα·
 ξυντετάρακται δ' αἰθήρ πόντῳ.
 τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ῥιπὴ Διόθεν
 1090 τεύχουσα φόβον στείχει φανερώς.
 ὦ μητρὸς ἐμῆς σέβας, ὦ πάντων
 αἰθήρ κοινὸν φάος εἰλίσσων,²
 ἔσορᾷς μ' ὡς ἔκδικα πάσχω.

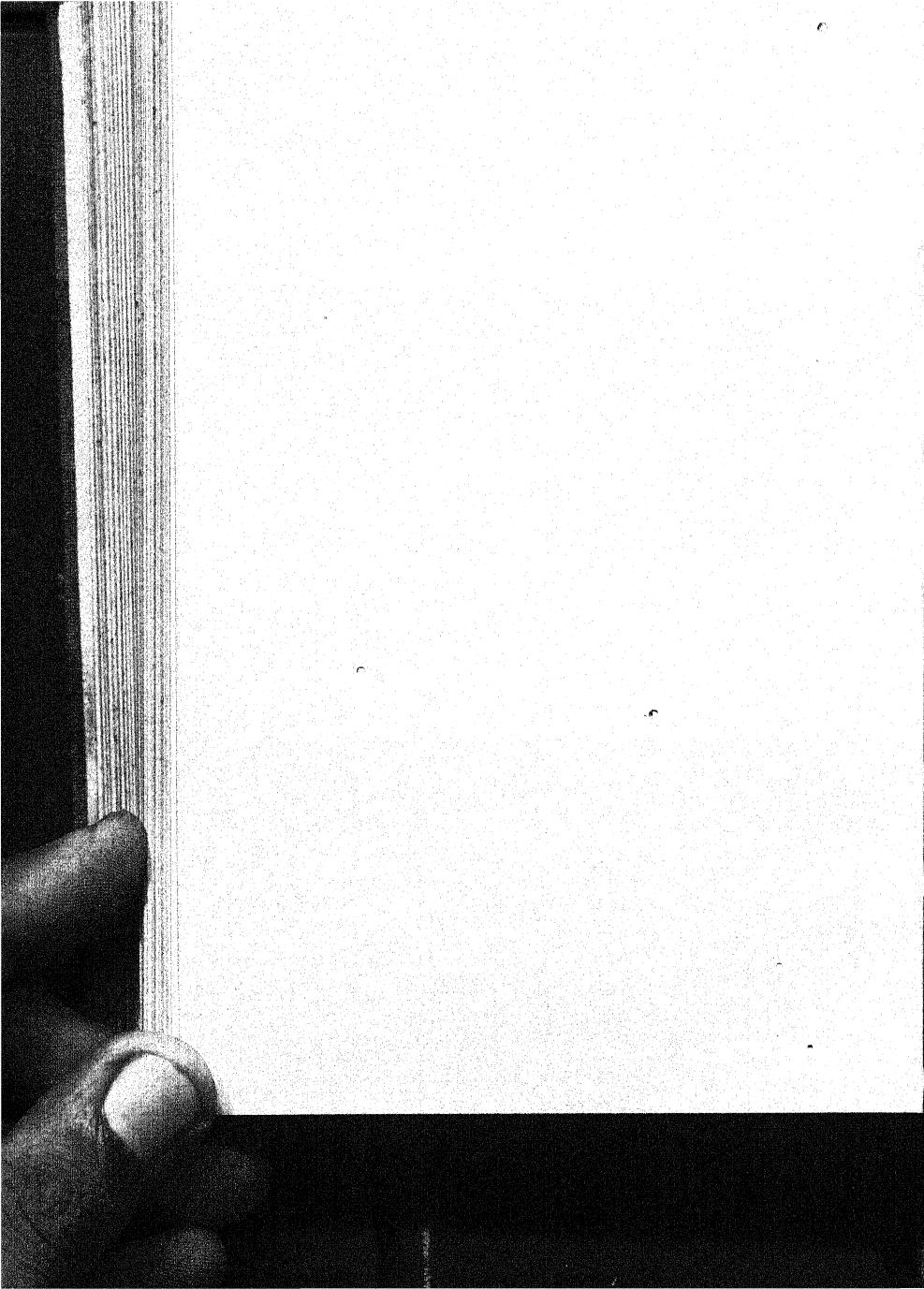
¹ εἰλίσσουσιν : Turn.

² εἰλίσσων : Turn.

PROMETHEUS BOUND

lightning-flashes flare forth, and whirlwinds toss the swirling dust ; the blasts of all the winds leap forth and set in hostile array their embattled strife ; the sky is confounded with the deep. Behold, this stormy turmoil advances against me, manifestly sped of Zeus to make me tremble. O holy mother mine, O thou firmament that dost revolve the common light of all, thou seest the wrongs I suffer !

[Amid thunder and lightning Prometheus vanishes from sight ; and with him disappear the daughters of Oceanus



THE SEVEN AGAINST
THEBES



ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΣΚΟΠΟΣ
ΧΟΡΟΣ ΠΑΡΘΕΝΩΝ
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ
ΚΗΡΤΞ

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

ETEOCLES, son of Oedipus, King of Thebes
A MESSENGER (Scout)
CHORUS of Theban Maidens
ANTIGONE
ISMENE
A HERALD

SCENE.—The Acropolis of Thebes, in which stand
altars and images of various divinities.

TIME.—Prehistoric.

DATE.—467 B.C., at the City Dionysia.

ARGUMENT

It had been thrice foretold by Apollo, the lord of Delphi, unto Laius, the King of the Cadmeans, that if he would save his kingdom he must die without offspring. But Laius followed the perverse counsels of his nature and disobeyed the voice of God : he begat a son, whom he would have exposed to his death on Mount Cithaeron ; but the babe was rescued by a shepherd who bore him to Corinth, where he grew to manhood, believing himself to be the son of the king of that land, although in fact he had only been adopted by him being childless. But coming to misdoubt his parentage, Oedipus journeyed to Delphi to seek the truth ; and when the god declared that he should slay his own father and marry his own mother, he sought to flee such a fate and betake himself far from the land wherein he thought his father and his mother dwelt. But it befell as the god had said : on the way he met and slew, unbeknown to himself, his father Laius : he came to Thebes, destroyed the monster Sphinx that made havoc of the land, married the Queen, even his mother, and begat two sons, Eteocles and Polynices, and two daughters, Antigone and Ismene. But when the truth stood revealed, his mother-wife hung herself, and Oedipus stabbed his eyes that they might not look on the misery he had wrought. And it came to pass that his sons, who ruled in his stead alternately, each the space of a year, treated him sore ill, so he cursed them and declared that

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

they should divide their inheritance by the sword. Eteocles would not suffer his brother to have his time to rule; and to enforce his right Polynices, who had fled to Adrastus, King of Argos, and married the daughter of that prince, mustered a host and sought to take his native town.

At this point the action of the play begins. Warned by the seer Teiresias that the Argives are bent on a supreme assault, Eteocles heartens the burghers, quells the outcries of the daughters of Thebes, frantic at their impending danger, and receives the tidings from a scout that the enemy is advancing against the seven gates. To each of the opposing chieftains as they are described by the scout Eteocles opposes a worthy antagonist, nor will he himself hold back from encountering his brother when he learns that he is to attack the seventh gate. The curse of his father must not stand before a soldier's honour. And so the brothers fell, each by the other's hand, and the curse of Oedipus and the warning of Apollo to Laius were fulfilled.

ΕΠΤΑ ΕΠΙ ΘΗΒΑΣ

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

- Κάδμου πολίται, χρή λέγειν τὰ καίρια
 ὅστις φυλάσσει πρᾶγος ἐν πρύμνῃ πόλεως
 οἶακα νωμῶν, βλέφαρα μὴ κοιμῶν ὕπνῳ.
 εἰ μὲν γὰρ εὖ πράξαιμεν, αἰτία θεοῦ.
 5 εἰ δ' αὖθ', ὃ μὴ γένοιτο, συμφορὰ τύχοι,
 Ἐτεοκλῆς¹ ἂν εἰς πολὺς κατὰ πτόλιν
 ὕμνοϊθ' ὑπ' ἀστῶν φροιμίῳ πολυρρόθοις
 οἰμῶγμασὶν θ', ὧν Ζεὺς ἀλεξητήριος²
 ἐπώνυμος γένοιτο Καδμείων πόλει.
 10 ὑμᾶς δὲ χρή νῦν, καὶ τὸν ἐλλείποντ' ἔτι
 ἥβης ἀκμαίας καὶ τὸν ἕξηβον χρόνῳ,
 βλαστημον³ ἀλδαίνοντα σώματος πολύν,
 ὦραν τ'⁴ ἔχονθ'⁵ ἕκαστον⁶ ὥστε⁷ συμπρεπές,
 πόλει τ' ἀρήγειν καὶ θεῶν ἐγχωρίων
 15 βωμοῖσι, τιμὰς μὴ ἔξαλειφθῆναί ποτε.
 τέκνοις τε, Γῇ τε μητρὶ, φιλτάτῃ τροφῷ.
 ἥ γὰρ νέους ἔρποντας εὐμενεὶ πέδῳ,
 ἅπαντα πανδοκοῦσα παιδείας ὄτλον,

¹ ἐτεοκλῆς M, ε superscribed after λ m¹, -έης recce.

² ἀλεξητήριος M, ἀλεξιτήριος m¹ recce. ³ βλάστημον M.

⁴ ὦραν * M, ὦραν m: in erasure τ' m¹, ὦραν δ' N.

⁵ ἔχονθ' changed to ἔχωνθ' M. ⁶ ἕκαστος M, ἕκαστον m¹.

⁷ ὥστις changed to ὥστι M: Grotius, Stanley.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

[*A numerous concourse of citizens of Thebes. Enter
Eteocles with attendants*]

ETEOCLES

Burghers of Cadmus, to say what the hour demands, is the part of him who guards the fortunes of the State, guiding the helm upon the stern, his eyes not closed in slumber. For should success be ours, we owe it to Heaven; but if, on the other hand—which God forbend!—disaster should befall, Eteocles would be the one name on many a citizen's tongue, bruited up and down the town in mutterings and laments. From this may Zeus the Averter, true to his name, defend the city of the Cadmeans!

But it is your part now—both his who still falls short of the full vigour of youth, and his who, past the period of youth, yet strives to cherish a sturdy growth of body, and for each man still in his prime, as befits his strength—'tis for you to succour the city and the altars of your country's gods that their worship may never be blotted out; to succour your children too, and Mother Earth, your nurse most dear. For she, welcoming all the cumber of nurturing care, reared you, who in your childhood crept upon

- 20 ἐθρέψατ' οἰκητῆρας¹ ἀσπιδηφόρους
πιστοὺς ὅπως γένουσθε πρὸς χρέος τόδε.
καὶ νῦν μὲν ἐς τόδ' ἡμαρ εὖ ῥέπει θεός·
χρόνον γὰρ ἤδη τόνδε πυργηρουμένοις
καλῶς τὰ πλείω πόλεμος ἐκ θεῶν κυρεῖ.
25 νῦν δ' ὥς ὁ μάντις φησὶν, οἰωνῶν βοτῆρ,
ἐν ὥσιν νωμῶν καὶ φρεσίν,² πυρὸς δίχα,
χρηστηρίους ὄρνιθας ἀψευδεῖ τέχνη·
οὗτος τοιῶνδε δεσπότης μαντευμάτων
λέγει μεγίστην προσβολὴν Ἀχαιῖδα
νυκτηγορεῖσθαι κάπιβουλεύσειν³ πόλει.
30 ἀλλ' ἐς τ' ἐπάλξεις καὶ πύλας πυργωμάτων⁴
ὀρμᾶσθε πάντες, σοῦσθε σὺν παντευχία,
πληροῦτε θωρακεῖα, καὶ πέλμασιν
πύργων στάθητε, καὶ πυλῶν ἐπ' ἐξόδοις
μύμνοντες εὖ θαρσεῖτε,⁵ μὴδ' ἐπηλύδων
35 ταρβεῖτ' ἄγαν ὁμίλον· εὖ τελεῖ θεός.
σκοποὺς δὲ καὶ γὰρ καὶ κατοπτῆρας⁶ στρατοῦ
ἔπεμψα, τοὺς πέποιθα μὴ ματᾶν ὀδῶ·
καὶ τῶνδ' ἀκούσας οὐ τι μὴ ληφθῶ δόλῳ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

- 40 Ἦτεόκλεες, φέριστε Καδμείων ἀναξ,
ἦκω σαφῆ τάκεῖθεν ἐκ στρατοῦ φέρων,
αὐτὸς κατόπτῃς δ' εἴμ' ἐγὼ τῶν πραγμάτων·
ἄνδρες γὰρ ἑπτά, θούριοι λοχαγέται,
ταυροσφαγοῦντες ἐς μελάνδετον σάκος
καὶ θιγγάνοντες χερσὶ ταυρείου φόνου,

¹ οἰκιστῆρας M many recc., οἰκηστῆρας KN, οἰκητῆρας Mosc. 2 Aug. Lips 2.

² φρεσὶ M.

³ κάπιβουλεύσειν M, -βουλεύειν F¹L.

⁴ πυλῶν πυργώματα m¹.

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her kindly soil, to found homes and bear the shield, and prove yourselves true men in this hour of need. And, as the case now stands, until to-day Heaven inclines to our cause; for though we have been this long time beleaguered, by the will of the gods the war in the main goes well. But now, as the seer, the shepherd of birds, informs us, pondering in ears and mind, with no help from fire, the omens of prophecy with unerring skill,—he, master that he is of such means of divination, declares that the fiercest assault of the Achaeans is proclaimed in nightly council, and that they will devise plans for the capture of our city. Hasten, all of you, to the battlements and gateways of our bulwarks. Gird all your armour on and speed ye. Man the parapets and take your stand on the platforms of the towers. Bide in good courage at the outlets of the ports, and fear not over much the crew of invaders. God will give a happy issue.

For my part I have dispatched scouts and men to spy their force, and they, I feel assured, are not gone on a bootless quest. When I have heard their report I shall in no wise be ensnared by stratagem.

[*Enter a Scout*]

• SCOUT •

Eteocles, most noble prince of the Cadmeans, I am returned, bearer of sure intelligence of the movements yonder in the host, myself eyewitness of what has passed. Seven warriors, impetuous leaders of their companies, shedding a bull's blood into a black-bound shield, and touching with their hands

⁵ εὐθαρσέετε: Aldina.

⁶ κατοπτῆρα M, κατοπτῆρας m¹.

- 45 Ἄρη τ' ¹ Ἐννώ, καὶ φιλαίματον Φόβον
 ὠρνωμότησαν ἢ πόλει κατασκαφὰς
 θέντες λαπάξειν ἄστρῳ Καδμείων βία,
 ἢ γῆν θανόντες τήνδε φυράσειν φόνῳ·
 μνημεῖά θ' αὐτῶν ² τοῖς τεκοῦσιν ἐς δόμους
 50 πρὸς ἄρμ' Ἀδράστου χερσὶν ἔστεφον, δάκρυ
 λείβοντες· οἶκτος δ' οὔτις ἦν διὰ στόμα.
 σιδηρόφρων γὰρ θυμὸς ἀνδρεία φλέγων
 ἔπνει, λεόντων ὡς Ἄρη ³ δεδορκότων.
 καὶ τῶνδε πύστις ⁴ οὐκ ὅκνω χρονίζεται·
 55 κληρουμένους δ' ἔλειπον, ὡς πάλω λαχὼν
 ἕκαστος αὐτῶν πρὸς πύλας ἄγοι λόχον.
 πρὸς ταῦτ' ἀρίστους ἄνδρας ἐκκρίτους πόλεως
 πυλῶν ἐπ' ἐξόδοισι τάγευσαι τάχος·
 ἐγγὺς γὰρ ἦδη πάνοπλος Ἀργείων στρατὸς
 60 χωρεῖ, κονίει, πεδία δ' ἀργηστής ἀφρὸς
 χραίνει σταλαγμοῖς ἱππικῶν ἐκ πνευμόνων.⁵
 σὺ δ' ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸς οἰακοστρόφος
 φράζει πόλισμα, πρὶν καταιγίσαι πνοᾶς
 Ἄρεως· βοᾷ γὰρ κύμα χερσαῖον στρατοῦ·
 65 καὶ τῶνδε καιρὸν ὅστις ὥκιστος λαβέ·
 καὶ γὰρ τὰ λοιπὰ πιστὸν ἡμεροσκόπον
 ὀφθαλμὸν ἔξω, καὶ σαφηνεῖα λόγου
 εἰδὼς τὰ τῶν θύραθεν ἀβλαβῆς ἔσθῃ.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

- 70 ὦ Ζεῦ τε καὶ Γῇ καὶ πολιissoῦχοι θεοί,
 Ἄρά τ' Ἐρινὺς πατὴρ ἢ μεγασθενής,

¹ Ἄρη τ' M, ἄρην τ' most recc. (ἄρρη τ' G): M. Schmidt.

² αὐτῶν M.

³ ἄρη M, ἄρην most recc.

⁴ πύστις most mss., πίστις Q, Stob. Flor. vii. 11.

⁵ πνευμόνων M, πνευμόνων or πνευμάτων recc.

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the victim's gore, have sworn an oath by Ares, by Enyo,¹ and by bloodthirsty Rout, that they will bring destruction on the city of the Cadmeans and ravage it by force of arms, or in death imbrue this land of ours with their blood. And on Adrastus' chariot they were suspending last tokens of themselves, destined for their parents at home. Tears they shed thereby, but no note of lamentation passed their lips; for there breathed in them a spirit of iron resolve, glowing with valour, as in lions with battle in their eyes. And thy learning of these tidings is not delayed by fearfulness; for I left them casting lots how each, his post assigned by chance, should lead his company against the ports. Therefore marshal thee amain our bravest warriors, the city's best, at the outlets of the gates. For already, hard at hand, the Argive host in full array is advancing and speeds onward, while white foam flecks the plain with drops from their chargers' panting breath. Do thou then, like the careful helmsman of a ship, bulwark the town ere the blasts of war break over it in storm; for on the dry land there roars a surge of armed men. To this effect do thou seize such moment as is speediest. On my part, for what's still to come, I will keep a wary eye on watch by day, and thou, apprised by true report of what takes place without, shalt be safe from harm.

[Exit

ETEOCLES

O Zeus and Earth, and ye gods that guard our city, and Curse,² the potent spirit of the vengeance

¹ Enyo is a personification of war, and hence sometimes called the mother or the daughter of Ares.

² The curse pronounced by Oedipus against his two sons (cp. 785 ff.) is a daemonic power, here identified with the vengeance it calls into being.

μή μοι πόλιν γε πρυμνόθεν πανώλεθρον
 ἐκθαμνίσητε δηάλωτον, Ἑλλάδος
 φθόγγον χέουσαν, καὶ δόμους ἐφεστίους·
 75 ἐλευθέραν δὲ γῆν τε καὶ Κάδμου πόλιν
 ζυγοῖσι δουλίοισι¹ μήποτε σχεθεῖν.²
 γένεσθε δ' ἀλκή· ξυνὰ δ' ἐλπίζω λέγειν·
 πόλις γὰρ εὖ πράσσουσα δαίμονας τίει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

θρέομαι φοβερὰ μεγάλ' ἄχῃ·
 μεθεῖται στρατός· στρατόπεδον λιπὼν
 80 ρεῖ πολὺς ὁδε λεὼς πρόδρομος ἱππότηας·
 αἰθερία κόνις με πείθει φανεῖσ',
 ἄναυδος σαφὴς ἔτυμος ἄγγελος.
 ἔτι δὲ <γᾶς> ἐμᾶς³ πεδί' ὀπλόκτυπ'⁴ ὥ-
 τι χρίμπτει βοάν.⁵ ποτᾶται, βρέμει δ'
 85 ἁμαχέτου δίκαν ὕδατος ὀροτύπου.
 ἰὼ ἰὼ
 ἰὼ θεοὶ θεαί τ' ὀρόμενον κακὸν
 βοᾷ τειχέων ὕπερ ἀλεύσατε.⁶
 ὁ λεύκασπις ὄρνυται λαὸς εὐ-
 90 τρεπῆς ἐπὶ πόλιν διώκων [πόδα].⁷
 τίς ἄρα ρύσεται, τίς ἄρ' ἐπαρκέσει
 θεῶν ἢ θεᾶν;
 πότῃ δῆτ' ἐγὼ <πάτρια>⁸ ποτιπέσω
 95 βρέτη δαιμόνων;
 ἰὼ μάκαρες εὐεδροί,
 ἀκμάζει βρετέων ἔχουσθαι· τί μέλ-
 λουεν ἀγαστονοί;

¹ δουλείοισι : Aldina.

² σχεθεῖν : Blomfield.

³ ἐλεδέμας M, ἐλεδεμᾶς m : Paley.

⁴ πεδιοπλοκτύπος τί M (ὥτι or τ' ὥτι, ὡσι or τ' ὡσι recc.) : Seidler.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

of my sire, do not, I entreat ye, extirpate in ruin utter and complete, with ravage by the foe, a city that speaks the speech of Hellas, and our hearths and homes. O may they never constrain in slavery's yoke a land of freedom and the town of Cadmus! But show yourselves our strength. Methinks it is our common cause I urge. For a State that prospers pays honours to its gods.

[*Exit Eteocles, with citizens. The Chorus enters in fearful agitation*]

CHORUS

In my terror I utter loud cries of woe. The host is let loose. Leaving their camp, lo! yonder stream, in full tide, the horsemen coursing in the van. I know it by the dust seen high in air—a speechless, yet clear and truthful harbinger.

And now the thud of hoofs upon my native plains brings the din close to my ears; it flies, it roars like a resistless torrent lashing the mountain-side.

Ah, ah, ye gods and goddesses, with your war-cry above our walls fend off the on-rushing horror!

The host of the white shield, ready for battle, rushes at full speed against the town.

Who then can rescue, who then can succour us, what god or goddess?

Shall I throw myself at the feet of the images of our ancestral gods?

Ah me, ye blessed ones throned in security, 'tis high time to clasp your images. Why do we delay, and wail thus o'ermuch? Hear ye, or hear ye not,

⁵ χρίμπτεται βοῶ' M: Ritschl.

⁶ ἀλεύσετε (M, with a over ε m!) βοᾷ ὑπὲρ τειχέων: Tucker.

⁷ [πῶδα] Bücheler.

⁸ <πάτρια> Volckmann.

- 100 ἀκούετ' ἢ οὐκ ἀκούετ' ἀσπίδων κτύπον;
πέπλων καὶ στεφάνων¹ πότ' εἰ μὴ νῦν ἀμ-
φὶ λιτάν² ἔξομεν;
κτύπον δέδορκα· πάταγος οὐχ ἑνὸς δορός.
τί ῥέξεις; προδώσεις, παλαίχθων
- 105 Ἄρης, τὰν τεάν;
ἰὼ³ χρυσοπήληξ δαῖμον, ἔπιδ' ἔπι-
δε πόλιν ἂν ποτ' εὐφιλήταν ἔθου.
- 110 θεοὶ πολιάρχοι πάντες ἴτε χθονὸς⁴ [στρ. α.
ἴδετε παρθένων
ἱκέσιον λόχον δουλοσύνας ὑπερ.
κῦμα [γάρ]⁵ περὶ πτόλιν δοχμολόφων ἀνδρῶν
- 115 καχλάζει πνοαῖς Ἄρεος ὀρόμενον.
ἀλλ', ὦ Ζεῦ ἴπᾱτερ παντελές,
πάντως ἄρηξον δαίων ἄλωσιν.
- 120 Ἄργεῖοι δέ πόλισμα Κάδμου
κυκλοῦνται· φόβος δ' ἀρήων⁶ ὄπλων
<δονεῖ>⁷, διὰ δέ τοι γενύων ἱππίων⁸
κινύρονται φόνον χαλινοί.
ἑπτὰ δ' ἀγάνορες⁹ πρέποντες στρατοῦ
- 125 δορυσσοῖς¹⁰ σαγαῖς πύλαις ἐβδόμαις¹¹
προσίστανται πάλῳ λαχόντες.
σύ τ', ὦ Διογενὲς φιλόμαχον κράτος, [ἀντ. α.
ῥυσίπολις¹² γενοῦ,
- 130 Παλλάς, ὃ θ' ἵππιος ποντομέδων ἄναξ
ἰχθυβόλῳ Ποσειδάων¹³ μαχανᾷ,¹⁴
ἐπίλυσιν φόβων,¹⁵ ἐπίλυσιν δίδου.

¹ στεφάνων changed to στεφάνων M.

² ἀμφίλιταν M, ἀμφὶ λιτάν m¹; Seidler.

³ ὦ: Dindorf.

⁴ χθονὸς ἰθ' (τ over θ) ἴτε M: Tucker.

⁵ [γάρ] Klausen.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

the clashing shields? When, if not now, shall we place about them sacred robes and coronals in supplication?

A clash! I mark it. 'Twas not the clatter of a single spear. What wilt thou? Wilt thou abandon thine own land, O Ares, thou that hast dwelt therein of old? O God of the golden casque, look, O look upon the town thou didst erstwhile take for thy well-beloved!

Ye gods, who guard our country, O come all! Behold a band of maidens in supplication to be saved from slavery. Round about the town seethes a human wave of slanting crests, sped on by the blasts of Ares. Yet, O father Zeus, thou all-perfecter, deliver us altogether from capture by the foe.

The Argives encircle the fortress of Cadmus, terror of their weapons of war bewilders us, yea, the bits set in the horse's jaws clatter destruction. And seven doughty chieftains, conspicuous above the throng in spear-brandishing harness, take their stand at the gates each according to his lot.

Thou, too, O Zeus-born Power that lovest battle, O Pallas, prove thyself the saviour of the city! And thou, Lord of steeds, ruler of the deep, with thy weapon that speareth the fish, O Poseidon, grant us deliverance, aye deliverance, from our terrors!

⁶ ἀρηίων : Butler.

⁷ <δονεί> Schroeder.

⁸ ἱππίων H. Mosc. 2, ἱππέων other mss.

⁹ ἀγήνορες : Dindorf.

¹⁰ δορυ(σ)όους : Blomfield.

¹¹ After 125 lacuna : Westphal.

¹² ῥυσίπολις most mss., ῥυσίπολις Lips. 2 Mosc. 1.

¹³ Ποσειδάν M, -δών recc. : Klausen.

¹⁴ μαχανᾶ with η over first and third α M, μηχανᾶ QLFN.

¹⁵ φόνων M (βου superscr. m), φόβων recc.

- 135 σύ τ', Ἄρης, φεῦ, φεῦ, πόλιν ἐπώνυμον
Κάδμου¹ φύλαξον κήδεσαι τ' ἐναργῶς.
140 καὶ Κύπρις, ἅτ' εἰ² γένους προμάτωρ,
ἄλευσον· σέθεν γὰρ³ ἐξ αἵματος
γεγόναμεν· λιταῖσι⁴ σε θεοκλύτοις
αὐτοῦσαι⁵ πελαζόμεσθα.
145 καὶ σύ, Λύκει' ἄναξ, Λύκειος γενοῦ
στρατῶ δαίῳ στόνων ἀντίτας.⁶
σύ τ', ὦ Λατογένει-
α κούρα, τόξον εὐτυκάζου⁷ [Ἄρτεμι φίλα].⁸

- ἔ ἔ ἔ ἔ, [στρ. β.
150 ὄτοβον ἀρμάτων ἀμφὶ πόλιν κλύω·
ὦ πότνι' Ἥρα.
ἔλακον ἀξόνων βριθομένων χνόαι.
Ἄρτεμι φίλα, ἔ ἔ ἔ ἔ,
155 δοριτίνακτος αἰθῆρ δ'⁹ ἐπιμαίνεται.
τί πόλις ἄμμι πάσχει, τί γενήσεται;
ποῖ δ' ἔτι τέλος ἐπάγει θεός;

- ἔ ἔ ἔ ἔ, [ἀντ. β.
ἀκροβόλων δ' ἐπάλξεων λιθὰς ἔρχεται·
ὦ φίλ' Ἀπολλον·
160 κónαβος ἐν πύλαις χαλκοδέτων σακέων,
παῖ Διός, ὅθεν¹⁰
πολεμόκραντον ἀγνὸν τέλος ἐν μάχῃ.
σύ τε, μάκαιρ¹¹ ἄνασσ' Ὀγκα, πρὸ πόλεως
165 ἐπτάπυλον ἔδος ἐπιρρύου.

¹ ἐπώνυμον κάδμου πόλιν M, κάδμου ἐπ. recc.: Tucker.

² ἅτε: ἅτ' εἰ Dindorf.

³ σέθεν M, σέθεν γὰρ recc.

⁴ λιταῖς: Herm.

⁵ ἀπύουσαι: Seidler.

⁶ ἀντᾶς: Wecklein.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

Thou too, Ares (oh the pity of it!), guard the town that bears the name of Cadmus and let thy presence prove thy kinship and thy care¹! And thou, Cypris, since thou art the primal mother of our race, ward off the foe! For from thy blood are we sprung. Invoking thee with orisons wherewith men call upon the gods, we draw nigh unto thee.

Thou too, Lord of the Wolf,² prove thyself a wolf unto the host of the foe, and requite groan for groan!

And thou, O maiden, Leto's child, prepare thy bow!

Ha! Ha! The rattle of the chariots round the town, I hear it. O Lady Hera! The naves creak beneath the axles' load. O beloved Artemis! The air maddens with hurtling spears! What betides our city? What is to come? And to what that lies beyond doth Heaven lead on the issue?

Ha! ha! To the height of our battlements comes the hail of stones. O beloved Apollo! There is a din of bronze-bound shields at the ports. O child of Zeus with whom is the divine authority that decides war when battle rages! And thou, sainted Queen Onca,³ on behalf of the city defend thy habitation of seven gates!

¹ κῆδος means both "kinship" and "care." The wife of Cadmus was Harmonia, daughter of Ares and Aphrodite.

² See the note on *Suppl.* 686.

³ Onca, the name of a Phoenician goddess, is identified with Athene (cp. l. 487).

⁷ . . . τυκάζου M, έντυκάζου m, εδ τυκάζον recc. : L. Dindorf.

⁸ ["Αρτεμι φίλα] Seidler. ⁹ δ' αἰθήρ : Herm.

¹⁰ καὶ διόθεν : von den Bergh.

¹¹ μάχαισι | τε M : Herm.

ἰὼ παναρκεῖς¹ θεοί,
ἰὼ τέλειοι τέλειαί τε γᾶς
τᾶσδε² πυργοφύλακες,
πόλιν δορίπονον μὴ προδῶθ'
170 ἑτεροφώνῳ στρατῷ.
κλύετε παρθένων κλύετε πανδίκως³
χειροτόνους λιτάς.

ἰὼ φίλοι δαίμονες,
175 λυτήριοι <τ>⁴ ἀμφιβάντες πόλιν,
δείξαθ' ὥς φιλοπόλεις,⁵
μέλεσθέ θ'⁶ ἱερῶν δημίων,
μελόμενοι δ' ἀρήξατε·
φιλοθύτων δέ τοι πόλεος⁷ ὀργίων
180 μνήστορες ἔστέ μοι.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

ὕμᾱς ἔρωτῶ, θρέμματ' οὐκ ἀνασχετά,
ἦ ταυτ' ἄριστα καὶ πόλει σωτήρια,
στρατῷ τε θάρσος τῷδε πυργηρουμένῳ,
185 βρέτῃ πεσούσας πρὸς πολιτισσούχων θεῶν
αὔειν, λακάζειν, σωφρόνων μισήματα;
μήτ' ἐν κακοῖσι μήτ' ἐν εὖεστοῖ φίλῃ
ξύνοικος κῆν τῷ γυναικείῳ γένει.
κρατοῦσα μὲν γὰρ οὐχ ὀμιλητὸν θράσος,
190 δείσασα δ' οἴκῳ καὶ πόλει πλέον κακόν.
καὶ νῦν πολίταις τάσδε διαδρόμους φυγὰς
θεῖσαι διερροθήσατ' αἴψυχον κάκην·
τὰ τῶν θύραθεν δ' ὥς ἄριστ' ὀφέλλεται,
αὐτοὶ δ' ὑπ' αὐτῶν⁸ ἐνδοθεν πορθούμεθα.
195 τοιαυτὰ τὰν γυναιξὶ συνναίων ἔχοις.⁹

¹ παναρκεῖς M, λ over ρ m¹, παναλκεῖς recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

O ye gods all potent to save, ye gods and goddesses that have full power to guard the bulwarks of our land, abandon not to a host of alien speech our city that now bears the brunt of war. Hearken, O hearken, righteously, unto maidens who stretch out their hands unto you in prayer.

O dear divinities, take your stand round the city as its saviours and show that ye hold it dear. Take thought of a people's offerings, and as ye take thought succour us. Be mindful, I beseech ye, of our city's lavish rites of sacrifice.

ETEOCLES

You, I ask, insufferable creatures that ye are ! is this the best course to save the town, does this hearten our beleaguered soldiery—to fling yourselves before the images of the gods that guard the city and shout and shriek and make decent folk detest you ? Neither in evil days nor in gladsome prosperity may I have to house with womankind. Has she the upper hand,—'tis insolence past living with ; but, if seized with fear, to home and city she is a still greater bane. So now, by thus hurrying to and fro in flight, in your clamour ye have spread craven cowardice among^r the townsfolk. The fortunes of the foe without are thus aided best, while we are ruined from within by our own selves. Verily you may expect such troubles if you house with women—

² τὰσδέ γε M, τὰσδε recc.

³ πανδίκους M¹LK, πανδίκως M²FRN.

⁴ <τ> Seidler.

⁵ φιλοπόλιες : Wunderlich.

⁶ δ' M, θ' recc.

⁷ πόλεως M recc., πόλεος N.

⁸ ὑφ' αὐτῶν M, ὑπ' αὐτῶν recc.

⁹ l. 195 omitted in M (at bottom of the page).

200 κεί μή τις ἀρχῆς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀκούσεται,
 ἀνὴρ γυνή τε χῶ τι τῶν μεταίχμιον,
 ψιῆφος κατ' αὐτῶν ὀλεθρία βουλεύσεται,
 λευστήρα δήμου δ' οὐ τι μὴ φύγῃ μόρον.
 μέλει γὰρ ἀνδρί, μὴ γυνὴ βουλευέτω,
 τάξωθεν· ἔνδον δ' οὔσα μὴ βλάβῃν τίθει.
 ἤκουσας ἢ οὐκ ἤκουσας, ἢ κωφῇ λέγω;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

205 ὦ φίλον Οἰδίπου τέκος, ἔδεις¹ ἀκού- [στρ. α.
 σασα τὸν ἀρματοκύττον ὄτοβον ὄτοβον,¹
 ὅτε² τε σύριγγες ἔκλαγξαν ἐλίτροχοι,
 ἵππικῶν τ' ἀπύαν³ πηδαλίῳ δια στόμα
 πυριγενετῶν χαλινῶν.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

210 τί οὖν; ὁ ναύτης ἄρα μὴ 'ς πρῶραν φυγῶν
 πρύμνηθεν ἠδρε⁴ μηχανὴν σωτηρίας,
 νεῶς καμούσης ποντίῳ πρὸς κύματι⁵;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

215 ἄλλ' ἐπὶ δαιμόνων πρόδρομος ἦλθον ἀρ- [αντ. α.
 χαῖα βρέτῃ, θεοῖσι πίσυνος,⁶ νιφάδος
 ὅτ' ὀλοᾶς νειφομένας⁷ βρόμος ἐν πύλαις·
 δὴ τότ' ἤρθη φόβῳ πρὸς μακάρων λιτάς, πόλεως
 ἦν ὑπερέχοιεν ἀλκάν.

¹ ὄτοβον MN, ὄτοβον ὄτοβον recc.

² ὅτι M, ὅτε Paris. 2886.

³ ἀπύων : Anonymus.

⁴ εὔρεν M, εὔρε m¹ : Weil.

⁵ . . . ματι M, ἐν κυ in erasure m, πρὸς κύματι recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

kind. Now if there be one who shall refuse obedience to my authority—man or woman or whatsoever is betwixt—sentence of death shall be passed upon him, and he shall in no wise escape destruction by stoning at the people's hand. Matters abroad are man's affair—let woman not advise thereon. Bide thou within and stir up no mischief. Dost hear or not? Or am I speaking to the deaf?

CHORUS

Ah, dear son of Oedipus, terror seized me at hearing the loud note sounded by the chariots, and when the pipes¹ screamed in the whirling wheels, and I heard the noise of the guiding gear in the horses' mouths, the bits forged in fire.

ETEOCLES

What then? Has ever the seaman, by fleeing from stern to prow, found means to save himself when his ship laboured in a tossing sea?

CHORUS

But it was with trust in the gods that I came in hot haste to the olden images of the powers divine when there arose the roar of the deadly hail beating at the gates. Then indeed it was that I was stirred by terror to supplicate the Blessed Ones that they might hold their protection over the city.

¹ There is word-play on *σὺργξ*: (1) the musical instrument, (2) the pipe of the nave.

⁶ *πίσυνος θεοῖς*: Seidler.

⁷ *νειφομένης* with *α* over *η* M.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

¹πύργον στέγειν εὔχεσθε πολέμιον δόρυ.
οὐκοῦν² τάδ' ἔσται πρὸς θεῶν· ἀλλ' οὖν θεοὺς
τοὺς τῆς ἀλούσης πόλεος³ ἐκλείπειν λόγος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

220 μήποτ' ἐμὸν κατ' αἰῶνα λίποι⁴ θεῶν [στρ. β.
ἄδε πανάγυρις, μηδ' ἐπίδοιμι τάνδ'
ἄστυδρομουμέναν πόλιν καὶ στρατεύμ'
ἄπτόμενον πυρὶ δαίτῳ.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

225 μή μοι θεοὺς καλοῦσα βουλεύου κακῶς·
πειθαρχία γάρ ἐστι τῆς εὐπραξίας
μήτηρ, γυνὴ σωτήρος· ὧδ' ἔχει λόγος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἔστι· θεοῦ⁵ δ' ἔτ' ἰσχύς καθυπερτέρα· [ἀντ. β.
πολλάκι δ' ἐν κακοῖσι τὸν⁶ ἀμάχανον
κάκ χαλεπᾶς δύας ὑπερθ' ὁμμάτων
κρημνάμενᾶν⁷ νεφελᾶν⁸ ὄρθοι.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

230 ἀνδρῶν τάδ' ἐστί, σφάγια καὶ χρηστήρια
θεοῖσιν ἔρδειν πολεμίων πειρωμένους⁹.
σὸν δ' αὖ τὸ σιγᾶν καὶ μένειν εἴσω δόμων.

¹ ll. 216-218 so M, 217 Chorus 218 Eteocles m¹, recc.

² οὐκοῦν M, οὐκοῦν m¹, recc. Reading οὐκοῦν . . . θεῶν;
Tucker translates, "Will that not be in the Gods' behalf?"

³ πόλεως most mss., πόλεος N and some recc.

⁴ λείποι M: Rob.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ETEOCLES

That our bulwarks stand fast against the onset of the foe—be that your prayer. Aye, this will be as the gods grant—but then, 'tis said, a captured city is forsaken by its gods.

CHORUS

Never, so long as my life lasts, may this holy company of the gods abandon it, nor may I live to see our city overrun and the soldiery laying hold on it with hostile fire !

ETEOCLES

Nay, take not evil counsel when thus calling on the gods. For Obedience is the mother of Success, wife of Preserver—so runs the saw.

CHORUS

Even so, yet the might of Heaven is above all ; and ofttimes in the midst of his distress, it uplifteth the helpless, even from cruel woes when clouds are lowering over his eyes.

ETEOCLES

'Tis for men to offer victims and sacrifices unto the gods when they make trial of the foe ; but thy task is to hold thy peace and bide within the house.

⁵ θεοῦ M, οὐς superscr. m, θεοῦς recc.

⁶ τῶν : Canter.

⁷ κριναμένῶν M, κρηναμέναν m¹ : Herm.

⁸ νεφέλαν : Herm.

⁹ πειρωμένοις M, ὦν superscr. m¹ : Weil.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

235 διὰ θεῶν πόλιν νεμόμεθ¹ ἀδάματον,² [στρ. γ.
 δυσμενέων δ' ὅχλον πύργος ἀποστέγει.
 τίς³ τάδε νέμεσις στυγεῖ;

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

οὔτοι φθονῶ σοι δαιμόνων τιμᾶν γένος·
 ἀλλ' ὥς πολίτας μὴ κακοσπλάγχχους τιθῆς,
 εὐκηλος ἴσθι μηδ' ἄγαν ὑπερφοβοῦ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

240 ποτίφατον⁴ κλύουσα πάταγον ἀνάμιγα⁵ [ἀντ. γ.
 ταρβουσύνῳ φόβῳ τάνδ' ἐς ἀκρόπολιν,⁶
 τίμιον ἔδος, ἰκόμαν.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

μή νυν, ἐὰν θνήσκοντας ἦ τετρωμένους
 πύθησθε, κωκυτοῖσιν ἀρπαλίζετε.
 τούτῳ γὰρ Ἄρης βόσκεται, φόνῳ βροτῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

245 καὶ μὴν ἀκούω γ' ἐπικικῶν φρυαγμάτων.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

μή νυν' ἀκούουσ' ἐμφανῶς ἄκου' ἄγαν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

στένει πόλισμα γῆθεν, ὥς κυκλουμένων.

¹ νεμόμεσθ' M, -μεθ' recc.

² ἀδάμαντον M, ἀδάμαστον recc.: Pauw.

³ τί: Heath.

⁴ ποταίνιον: Heimsoeth.

⁵ ἀμιγα M, ἀνάμιγα Aug.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

CHORUS

Through Heaven's grace the city we inhabit is unsubdued and our battlements ward off the thronging foe. Wherein do our acts merit reproof in anger?

ETEOCLES

I grudge thee not, i' faith, thine honouring the powers of Heaven; but that thou make not our burghers craven-hearted, be thou calm nor give way to terror overmuch.

CHORUS

'Twas at the sound of strange and mingled din that in trembling fear I came hither to the holy sanctuary upon the citadel.

ETEOCLES

If, then, ye hear of dying or of wounded men, seize not on the news with shrill lament. For this is the food of Ares, even the blood of men.

CHORUS

Hark! I hear the snorting of steeds!

ETEOCLES

For all thy hearing, hear not too plainly.

CHORUS

The stronghold groans from its base, as if they were girding it about.

⁶ ἀκρόπολιν M, ἀκρόπολιν N.

⁷ νῦν M.

AESCHYLUS

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

οὐκοῦν ἔμ' ἄρκεῖ τῶνδε βουλευέειν πέρι

ΧΟΡΟΣ

δέδοικ', ἀραγμὸς δ' ἐν πύλαις ὀφέλλεται.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

250 οὐ σίγα μῆδέν τῶνδ' ἐρεῖς κατὰ πτόλιν;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ ξυντέλεια, μὴ προδῶς πυργώματα.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

οὐκ ἔς φθόρον¹ σιγῶς ἀνασχῆση τάδε;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

θεοὶ πολῖται, μὴ με δουλείας τυχεῖν.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

αὐτὴ σὺ δουλοῖς κάμει καὶ πᾶσαν πόλιν.²

255

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ παγκράτες Ζεῦ, τρέψον εἰς ἐχθροὺς βέλος.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

ὦ Ζεῦ, γυναικῶν οἶον ὥπασας γένος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μοχθηρόν, ὥσπερ ἄνδρας ὦν ἀλῶ πόλιν.

¹ φόνον M, φθόρον m¹.

² πτόλιν M, πόλιν recs.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ETEOCLES

Well, it is enough, I hope, that I take thought thereon.

CHORUS

I am adread, the battering grows louder at the ports.

ETEOCLES

Hold thy peace! Say naught of this about the town!

CHORUS

O guardian company of gods, abandon not our battlements!

ETEOCLES

Plague on thee! Wilt thou not hold thy peace and suffer in patience?

CHORUS

Gods of our city! Save me from the fate of slavery!

ETEOCLES

'Tis thou, thou, that art making a slave of me and of the whole city.

CHORUS

O Almighty Zeus, turn thy bolt upon the foe!

ETEOCLES

O Zeus, what a breed thou hast given us in woman-kind!

CHORUS

A breed beset with miseries, even as men whose city is captured.

AESCHYLUS

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

παλινστομεῖς αὖ θιγγάνουσ' ἀγαλμάτων;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἄψυχία γὰρ γλῶσσαν ἀρπάζει φόβος.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

260 αἰτουμένῳ μοι κοῦφον εἰ δοίης τέλος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

λέγοις ἄν ὥς τάχιστα, καὶ τάχ' εἴσομαι.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

σίγησον, ὦ τάλαινα, μὴ φίλους φόβει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

σιγῶ· σὺν ἄλλοις πείσομαι τὸ μόρσιμον.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

265 ποῦτ' ἀντ' ἐκείνων τοῦπος αἰροῦμαι σέθεν.
καὶ πρὸς γε τούτοις, ἐκτὸς οὖσ' ἀγαλμάτων,
εὖχου τᾶ κρείσσω, ξυμμάχους εἶναι θεοῦς·
κᾶμῶν ἀκούσας' εὐγμάτων, ἔπειτα σὺ
ὀλολυγμὸν ἱερὸν εὐμενῇ παιώνισον,¹
Ἑλληνικὸν νόμισμα θυστάδος βοῆς,
270 θάρσος φίλοις, λύουσα πολέμιον φόβον.
ἐγὼ δὲ χώρας τοῖς πολισσούχοις θεοῖς,
πεδιονόμοις τε κἀγοράς ἐπισκόποις,

¹ παιώνισον M, παιάνισον m¹ rec.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ETEOCLES

What ! ill-omened words and thy hands upon the statues of the gods ?

CHORUS

Aye, for that I am faint of heart, fear runs away with my tongue.

ETEOCLES

If only thou wouldst grant at my request a trifling boon.

CHORUS

Say on forthwith, I pray thee, and I shall know anon.

ETEOCLES

Hold thy peace, wretched woman ; cease from terrifying thine own defenders.

CHORUS

I hold my peace. I shall suffer the fate that others share.

ETEOCLES

This utterance likes me better than thy words that went before. Aye, and more than this—quit thy place about the images and make the better prayer : “ May the gods fight on our side ! ” And now first hear my vow, and then ring out the loud and solemn cry of jubilation, our Grecian wont of sacrificial shout heartening to our friends, and remove the terror of battle.

And now [*here Eteocles makes his vow*] “ To the guardian gods of our country, whether they haunt the plain or keep watch over the market-place, to

Δίρκης τε πηγαῖς, ὕδατί τ'¹ Ἰσμηνοῦ λέγω
 εὖ ξυντυχόντων καὶ πόλεως σεσωμένης,²
 275 μήλοισιν αἰμάσσοντας ἐστίας θεῶν,
 [ταυροκτονοῦντας θεοῖσιν, ὧδ' ἐπεύχομαι]³
 θύσειν⁴ τροπαῖα, δαῖων⁵ δ' ἐσθήματα,⁶
 στέψω λάφυρα⁷ δουρίπληχθ'⁸ ἀγνοῖς δόμοις.
 [στέψω πρὸ ναῶν, πολεμίων δ' ἐσθήματα.†]⁹
 280 τοιαῦτ' ἐπεύχου μὴ φιλοστόνως θεοῖς,
 μηδ' ἐν ματαίοις κἀγρίοις ποιφύγμασιν.¹⁰
 οὐ γάρ τι μᾶλλον μὴ φύγῃς τὸ μόρσιμον.
 ἐγὼ δέ γ'¹¹ ἄνδρας ἐξέμοι σὺν ἐβδόμῳ
 ἀντηρέτας ἐχθροῖσι τὸν μέγαν τρόπον
 285 εἰς ἐπτατειχεῖς ἐξόδους τάξω μολῶν,
 πρὶν ἀγγέλους σπερχοὺς τε καὶ ταχυρρόθους
 λόγους ἰκέσθαι καὶ φλέγειν χρείας ὑπο.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μέλει, φόβω δ' οὐχ ὑπνώσσει κέαρ. [στρ. α.
 γείτονες δὲ καρδίας
 290 μέριμναι ζωπυροῦσι τάρβος
 τὸν ἀμφιτειχῇ λεῶν,
 δράκοντας¹² ὥς τις τέκνων
 ὑπερδέδουκεν λεχαίων¹³ δυσευνάτορας¹⁴
 πάντρομος¹⁵ πελειάς.
 295 τοὶ μὲν γὰρ ποτὶ πύργους
 πανδαμὲι πανομιλεῖ
 στείχουσιν. τί γένωμαι;

¹ οὐδ' ἀπ': ὕδατί τ' Geel.

² σεσωμένης: Wecklein.

³ [] Wilam.

⁴ θήσειν: Weil.

⁵ πολεμίων: δαῖων Herm.

⁶ ἐσθήμασι M, τα over σι m.

⁷ λάφυρα δάων: στέψω λάφυρα Herm., Wilam.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

Dirce's springs, and to Ismenus' stream, I make my vow that, if all go well and the city with its burghers be preserved, they shall stain with blood of sheep the hearths of the gods and offer trophies, while I will bedeck their hallowed abodes with the spoil of the spear-smitten vestments of the foe."

Such be the tenour of thy prayers unto the gods, indulging not in lamentations nor in vain and frantic shrieks; for none the more shalt thou thereby escape thy doom. Meantime I will go and at the seven outlets in the walls will post six men—myself the seventh—as champions to oppose the foe in gallant style, ere ever messengers in hot haste and swift speeding rumours arrive and inflame us by the urgent need. [Exit

CHORUS

I heed his bidding, but through terror my spirit finds no rest. Anxieties, pressing close upon my heart, enkindle my dread of the soldiery encompassing our walls, even as an ever-timorous dove for her nestlings' sake hath fear of serpents, the fell visitants of her nest. For in their whole force and multitude some press against our battlements—ah, what will

⁸ δουρίπληχθ' M, δο(υ)ρύπληχθ' PR, δουρίπληθ' V.

⁹ This verse is deleted in whole or in part in PQ.

¹⁰ ποιφύγμασιν by correction M, ποιφύγμασιν recc.

¹¹ δ' ἐπ' : δέ γ' Anon.

¹² δράκοντα δ' : Bothe.

¹³ λεχέων : Lachmann.

¹⁴ δυσσυνήτορας M, with εἰ over η, α over ασ m¹ : scholiast M, Bothe.

¹⁵ πᾶντρομος M and m, -τροφος m recc.

300 τοὶ δ' ἐπ' ἀμφιβόλοισιν
 ἰάπτουσι πολίταις
 χερμάδ' ὀκριόεσσαν.¹
 παντὶ τρόπῳ, Διογενεῖς
 θεοί, πόλιν καὶ στρατὸν
 Καδμογενῇ ῥύεσθε.

305 ποῖον δ' ἀμείψεσθε² γαίης πέδον [ἀντ. α.
 τᾶσδ' ἄρειον, ἐχθροῖς
 ἀφέντες τὰν βαθύχθον' αἶαν,
 ὕδωρ τε Διρκαῖον, εὐ-
 τραφέστατον³ πωμάτων
 ὅσων ἦσιν Ποσει-
 310 δᾶν ὁ γαιάοχος
 Τηθύος τε παῖδες.
 πρὸς τὰδ', ὦ πολιοῦχοι,
 θεοί, τοῖσι μὲν ἕξω
 πύργων ἀνδρολέτειραν
 315 κῆρα, ῥίψοπλον⁴ ἄταν,
 ἐμβαλόντες ἄροισθε
 κῦδος τοῖσδε πολίταις.
 καὶ πόλεως ῥύτορες⁵ <ἔστ' >⁶
 εὐέδροί τε στάθητ'
 320 ὀξυγόοις λιταῖσιν.

οἰκτρὸν γὰρ πόλιν ὦδ' ὠγυγίαν [στρ. β.
 Ἀΐδα προῖάψαι, δορὸς ἄγραν
 δουλίαν⁷ ψαφαρᾷ σποδῶ
 325 ὑπ' ἀνδρὸς Ἀχαιοῦ θεόθεν
 περβομένην ἀτίμως,
 τὰς δὲ κεχειρωμένας⁸ ἄγεσθαι,
 ἔ ἐ, νέας τε καὶ παλαιὰς

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

betide me?—others hurl jagged stones upon the burghers pelted on every side. O ye gods of race divine, with all your power rescue our city and her men-at-arms, the sons of Cadmus!

What more delightful plot of earth will ye exchange for this, if ye abandon to its foe this deep-soiled land and Dirce's water, most healthful of all streams poured forth by Poseidon, who upholds the earth, and by Tethys' children? Therefore, O gods that protect the city, so hurl panic upon the foe without our battlements that they fling away their arms and perish in slaughter; and earn thereby glory for yourselves in our burghers' eyes. O save our city and stablish yourselves securely in your fair seats therein in answer to our prayers fraught with shrill laments!

For piteous it were thus to hurl to destruction a city of olden time, made slave and booty of the spear, in dust and ashes laid by Heaven's decree and ignominious ravage of Achaean men. Piteous, too, for her captive daughters (ah me, ah me!), young

¹ ὀκρυβεσσαν M, ὀκριόεσσαν m¹.

² ἀμείψασθε M, ἀμείψεσθε m¹.

³ εὐτρεφέστατον M, εὐτράφεστατον recc.

⁴ καταρίψοπλον M, καὶ τὰν ῥίψοπλον: κῆρα ῥίψοπλον Lowinski.

⁵ ῥύτορες M¹, ῥυτήρες m¹.

⁶ <ἔστ> Headlam.

⁷ δουλείαν M: δουλίαν marg. of Burton's Aldina.

⁸ κεχηρωμένος M, εἰ over η m¹.

330 ἱππηδὸν πλοκάμων, περιρ-
ρηγνυμένων φαρέων. βοᾷ
δ' ἔκκενουμένα πόλις,
λαῖδος ὀλλυμένας μιξοθρόου·
βαρείας τοι τύχας προταρβῶ.

335 κλαυτὸν δ' ἀρτιτρόποις¹ ὠμοδρόποις² [ἀντ. β.
νομίμων προπάρουθεν διαμεῖψαι
δωμάτων στυγεράν ὁδόν·
τί; τὸν φθίμενον γὰρ προλέγω
βέλτερά τῶνδε πράσσειν·
πολλὰ γάρ, εὔτε πτόλις³ δαμασθῇ,
340 ἔ' ε', δυστυχή τε πράσσει.
ἄλλος δ' ἄλλον ἄγει, φονεύ-
ει, τὰ δὲ πυρφορεῖ· καπνῶ
[δὲ]⁴ χραίνεται πόλισμ' ἅπαν·
μαινόμενος δ' ἐπιπνεῖ λαοδάμας
μιαίνων εὐσέβειαν Ἄρης.

345 κορκορυγαὶ δ' ἀν' ἄστν, προτὶ [πτόλιν]⁵
δ' ὄρκῶνα [στρ. γ.
πυργῶτις· πρὸς ἀνδρὸς δ' ἀνῆρ
~ <ἀμφὶ>⁶ δορὶ κλίνεται.⁷
βλαχαὶ δ' αἵματόεσσαι
τῶν ἐπιμαστιδίων
350 ἀρτιτρεφεῖς βρέμονται.
ἀρπαγαὶ δὲ διαδρομῶν⁸ ὁμαίμονες·
ξυμβολεῖ φέρων φέροντι,
καὶ κενὸς κενὸν καλεῖ,
ξύννομον θέλων ἔχειν,
355 οὔτε μείον οὔτ' ἴσον λελιμμένοι.⁹
τάκ¹⁰ τῶνδ' εἰκάσαι λόγος πάρα.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

and old, to be haled by their hair, like horses, while their raiment is rent about them. A city made desolate waileth as the captive spoil is borne off to its doom 'mid mingled cries. Grievous in truth is the fate my fear forebodes.

Woeful it is for modest maidens, plucked all unripe, before the nuptial rite, to pass on a detested journey from their homes. Nay, the dead, I trow, have a happier fate than they. Aye, for many and wretched are the miseries (alas, alas!) when a city is taken. Man drags off man, or slays, or carries fire; the whole city is befouled with smoke. Mad, inspiring to frenzy, slaying the people, defiling holiness is war.

Tumult reigns through the town, against it advances a towering net of ruin. Man encounters man and is laid low by the spear. For the babes at their breast resound the wailing cries of young mothers, all streaming with blood.* Kindred are the prey of scattering bands. Pillager encounters pillager; the empty-handed hails the empty-handed, fain to have a partner, all greedy neither for less nor equal share. Good reason is there to surmise the issue of deeds like this.

¹ ἀρτιτρόπους M, δ over the second τ m.

² ὁμοδρόμων : Ritschl.

³ πόλις M, πόλις F².

⁴ [δὲ] Brunck.

⁵ ποτὶ πόλιν : Herm.

⁶ <ἀμφι> Herm.

⁷ κλίνεται M, with και over κλι m¹.

⁸ διαδρομὴν M, -αν m¹.

⁹ λελημμένοι M, λελημμένοι recc.

¹⁰ τί* ἐκ M, τίν' ἐκ m¹ : Wilam.

- παντοδαπὸς δὲ καρπὸς χαμάδις πεσὼν [ἀντ. γ.
ἀλγύνει κυρήσας· πικρὸν δ'
ᾧμμα θαλαμηπόλων·
360 πολλὰ δ' ἀκριτόφυρτος
γᾶς δόσις οὐτιδανοῖς
ἐν ῥοθίοις¹ φορεῖται.
δμῳίδες δὲ καινοπήμονες νέαι·
τλάμον'² εὐνὰν αἰχμάλωτον
365 ἀνδρὸς εὐτυχούντος ὥς
δυσμενοῦς ὑπερτέρου
ἐλπίς ἐστι νύκτερον τέλος μολεῖν,
παγκλαύτων ἀλγέων ἐπίρροθον.

HMIXORION

- ὁ τοι κατόπτης, ὥς ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ, στρατοῦ
370 πευθῶ τιν' ἡμῖν, ᾧ φίλαι, νέαν φέρει,
σπουδῇ διώκων πομπίμους χνόας ποδῶν.

HMIXORION

καὶ μὴν ἄναξ ὅδ' αὐτὸς Οἰδίπου τόκος
εἰς³ ἀρτίκολλον ἀγγέλου λόγον μαθεῖν·
σπουδῇ δέ καὶ τοῦδ' οὐκ ἀπαρτίζει πόδα.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

- λέγοιμ' ἂν εἰδὼς εὖ τὰ τῶν ἐναντίων,
375 ὥς τ'⁴ ἐν πύλαις ἕκαστος εἴληχεν πάλον.
Τυδεὺς μὲν ἤδη πρὸς πύλαισι Προιτίσιν
βρέμει, πόρον δ' Ἰσμηνὸν οὐκ ἐᾷ περᾶν
ὁ μάντις· οὐ γὰρ σφάγια γίγνεται⁵ καλά.

¹ ῥοθίοισι M., ῥοθίοις recc.

² τλήμονες MSS. except N (τλήμον'): Blomfield.

³ εἰς' most MSS., ἐς Q: Porson.

⁴ ὥστ' in erasure changed to ὅτ' (?) M. ⁵ γίνεταί: Porson.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

Store of every sort, strewn upon the ground as it may chance, is cause for grief, a sorry sight for housewives' eyes. In wild confusion the plenteous gifts of earth are swept along in streams of wastefulness. Young women, enslaved, suffer a new misery. Theirs it is to expect a captive's woeful bed, bed as of a happy mate but a triumphant foe's—the coming of the nightly rite to alleviate her tears and anguish!¹

[*The Scout is seen approaching from one side ;
Eteocles from the other*

LEADER OF THE FIRST HALF-CHORUS

My friends, the scout, methinks, is bringing to us some recent tidings of the host, urging in hot haste the joints of his legs that bear him hither.

LEADER OF THE SECOND HALF-CHORUS

And lo ! here comes our lord himself, the son of Oedipus, at the fit moment to hear the messenger's report. He, too, from haste keeps not his even pace.

SCOUT

I will describe—from knowledge that is sure—the disposition of the foe, how at the gates each man hath his post by lot. Tydeus already is storming before the Proetid gate ; yet the seer suffers him not to pass the Ismenus because the omens from the sacrifices do not promise fair. But Tydeus,

¹ In this highly condensed passage, contrasted with the note of the misery of an enforced union is an undertone of the happiness of a marriage of love. *ἀνδρός* is at once "man" and "husband," *τέλος* "rite" and "consummation," *ἐλπὶς* "expectation" of sorrow and of joy.

- 380 Τυδεὺς δὲ μαργῶν καὶ μάχης λελιμμένος¹
 μεσημβριναῖς κλαγγαῖσιν ὥς δράκων βοᾷ·
 θείνει² δ' ὀνειδίζει μάντιν Οἰκλείδην³ σοφόν,
 σαίνειν μόρον τε καὶ μάχην ἀψυχία.
 τοιαῦτ' αὐτῶν τρεῖς κατασκίους λόφους
 385 σείει, κράνους χαίτωμ', ὑπ' ἀσπίδος δ' ἔσω⁴
 χαλκήλατοι κλάζουσι κώδωνες φόβον·
 ἔχει δ' ὑπέρφρον σῆμ' ἐπ' ἀσπίδος τόδε,
 φλέγονθ' ὑπ' ἄστροις οὐρανὸν τετυγμένον·
 λαμπρὰ δὲ πανσέληνος ἐν μέσῳ σάκει,
 390 πρέσβιστον ἄστρων,⁵ νυκτὸς ὀφθαλμός, πρόπει.
 τοιαῦτ' ἀλύων ταῖς ὑπερκόμποις σαγαῖς⁶
 βοᾷ παρ' ὄχθαις ποταμίαις, μάχης ἔρων,
 ἵππος χαλινῶν ὥς κατασθμαίνων μένει,
 ὅστις βοῇν σάλπιγγος ὀρμαίνει μένων.⁷
 395 τίς ἀντιτάξεις τῷδε; τίς Προΐτου πυλῶν
 κλήθρων λυθέντων προστατεῖν φερέγγυος;

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

- κόσμον μὲν ἀνδρὸς οὕτω' ἂν τρέσαιμ' ἐγώ,
 οὐδ' ἔλκοποιά γίνεται⁸ τὰ σήματα·
 λόφοι δὲ κώδων τ' οὐ δάκνουσ' ἄνευ δορός.
 400 καὶ νύκτα ταύτην ἣν λέγεις ἐπ' ἀσπίδος
 ἄστροισι⁹ μαρμαίρουσαν οὐρανοῦ κυρεῖν,
 τάχ' ἂν γένοιτο μάντις ἢ ἀνοία τινί.⁹
 εἰ γὰρ θανόντι νύξ ἐπ' ὀφθαλμοῖς πέσοι,
 τῷ τοι φέροντι σῆμ' ὑπέρκομπον τόδε
 405 γένοιτ' ἂν ὀρθῶς ἐνδίκως τ' ἐπώνυμον,
 καυτὸς καθ' αὐτοῦ τήνδ' ὕβριν μαντεύσεται.¹⁰

¹ λιμένος M, λε prefixed m, μ over μ m¹.

² θένει M, θείνει recc.

³ οικλειδην mss. except G (ol.).

⁴ δ' ἔσω M, δὲ τῷ m¹ recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

mad with passion and eager for the fray, makes outcry like to a serpent's hiss at noonday, and lashes the wise seer, Oecles' son, with the taunt that a craven spirit makes him cringe before death and battle. Uttering such shouts, he shakes three overshadowing crests, his helmet's mane, while from beneath his shield within bronze-wrought bells peal forth a fearsome clang. On his shield he beareth this presumptuous device—a sky of cunning workmanship, ablaze with stars, and in the centre of his buckler shines, most revered among the stars, the bright full moon, the eye of night. Raving thus in his vaunting garniture, he shouts upon the river-bank, lusting for the fray, like some charger that, panting in fury against the bit, chafes while it awaits the trumpet's blare. Whom wilt thou post as his antagonist? Who hath thy trust to stand as champion at the Proetid gate when the barriers are loosed?

ETEOCLES

On me a man's resplendent trappings work no terror. Nor hath blazonry power to wound—crests and bell bite not without the spear. And for this "night," which, thou sayest, is set upon his shield and glitters with the stars of heaven,—mayhap a man's folly might prove prophetic unto him. For should in death "night" fall upon his eyes, then to its bearer this vaunting cognizance of his might rightly and justly answer to its name; and 'tis to his own undoing it will prove that he thus insolently

⁵ ἄστρον changed to ἀστρον M. ⁶ ἀγαῖς M, σ prefixed m¹.

⁷ ὀρμαίνει μένων MVH, ὀρμαίνων μένει KLFN.

⁸ γίνεταί M: Porson. ⁹ ἡ ἀνοῖα τινι M, ἡ ἀνοῖα τινι m.

¹⁰ μαντεύεται M, -σ inserted m.

ἐγὼ δὲ Τυδεΐ κεδνὸν Ἀστακοῦ τόκον
 τῶνδ'¹ ἀντιτάξω προστάτην πυλωμάτων,
 μάλ' εὐγενῇ τε καὶ τὸν Αἰσχύνης θρόνον
 410 τιμῶντα καὶ στυγοῦνθ' ὑπέρφρονας λόγους.
 αἰσχυρῶν γὰρ ἄργός, μὴ κακὸς δ' εἶναι φιλεῖ.
 σπαρτῶν δ' ἀπ' ἀνδρῶν, ὧν Ἀρης ἐφείσατο,
 ρίζωμ' ἀνεῖται, κάρτα δ' ἔστ' ἐγγώριος,
 Μελάνιππος· ἔργον δ' ἐν κύβοις Ἀρης κρινεῖ·
 415 Δίκη δ' ὁμαίμων² κάρτα νιν προστέλλεται
 εἵργειν τεκούση μητρὶ πολέμιον δόρυ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τὸν ἁμόν³ νυν⁴ ἀντίπαλον εὐτυχεῖν [στρ. α.
 θεοὶ δοῖεν, ὥς δικαίως πόλεως
 πρόμαχος⁵ ὄρνυται· τρέμω δ' αἵματη-
 420 φόρους μόρους ὑπὲρ φίλων
 ὀλομένων ιδέσθαι.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

τούτῳ μὲν οὕτως εὐτυχεῖν δοῖεν θεοί.⁶
 Καπανεὺς δ' ἐπ' Ἡλέκτραισιν εἴληχεν πύλαις,
 γίγας ὃδ' ἄλλος τοῦ πάρος λελεγμένου
 425 μείζων, ὁ κόμπος δ' οὐ κατ' ἄνθρωπον φρονεῖ,
 πύργοις δ' ἀπειλεῖ δεῖν,⁷ ἃ μὴ κραῖνοι τύχη·
 θεοῦ τε γὰρ θέλοντος ἐκπέρσειν πόλιν
 καὶ μὴ θέλοντός φησιν, οὐδὲ τὴν Διὸς
 ἔριν πέδοι⁸ σκήψασαν ἐμποδὼν σχεθεῖν.
 430 τὰς δ' ἀστραπὰς τε καὶ κεραυνίους βολὰς
 μεσημβρινοῖσι θάλπεσιν προσήκασεν·

¹ τόν δ' : Grotius.

² ὁμαίμων M, ὁ δαίμων m rec.

³ ἁμόν changed to ἁμόν M.

⁴ νυν M : Arnaldus.

⁵ πρόμαχος M, πρόμαχος m.

⁶ θεοὶ δοῖεν M, δοῖεν θεοὶ m.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

maketh prophecy. Now for my part, against Tydeus I will post as defender of this port the trusty son of Astacus. Right nobly born is he, and he holds in reverence the throne of Honour and detests boastful speech. Laggard in deeds of shame, yet no dastard, is he wont to be. From the Heroes of the Dragon's blood whom Ares spared, his stock is sprung, and a true scion of our soil is Melanippus. As for the issue, Ares with his dice will determine that; but Justice, his true kin in blood, sends him forth, charged to ward off the foeman's spear from the mother that gave him birth. [*Exit Melanippus*]

CHORUS

Now may the gods grant that our champion have good success, as in a just cause he speedeth forth to battle for his country! But I shudder to look upon the blood-stained deaths of men fallen for their folk.

SCOUT

Aye, even as thou prayest, may the gods grant him good success!—For the Electran gate Capaneus hath drawn his lot: another giant he, overtopping him named afore: but his vaunting speech betokens thoughts too proud for man, and against our battlements he threatens horrors,—which may Fortune not bring to pass! For whether Heaven wills or wills it not, he vows he will make havoc of the city and that even the rival fire of Zeus, though it crash upon the earth in his path, shall not stay his course. As for lightning-flashes and the thunder's bolts, he likened them to rays of heat at midday. For blazon

⁷ πῆδω : Dindorf.

⁸ σκέθειν : Blomfield.

ἔχει δὲ σῆμα γυμνὸν ἄνδρα πυρφόρον,
 φλέγει δὲ λαμπὰς διὰ χερῶν ὠπλισμένη·
 χρυσοῖς δὲ φωνεῖ γράμμασιν “πρήσω πόλιν.”
 435 τοιῶδε φωτὶ πέμπε—τίς ξυστήσεται,
 τίς ἄνδρα κομπάζοντα¹ μὴ τρέσας μενεῖ;

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

καὶ τῷδε κέρδει κέρδος ἄλλο τίκτεται.
 τῶν τοι ματαίων ἀνδράσιν φρονημάτων
 ἢ γλῶσσ² ἀληθῆς γίγνεται³ κατήγορος·
 440 Καπανεὺς δ' ἀπειλεῖ, δρᾶν παρεσκευασμένος,
 θεοὺς ἀτίζων, κάπογυμνάζων στόμα
 χαρᾷ ματαῖα θνητὸς ὢν εἰς οὐρανὸν
 πέμπει γεγωνᾷ⁴ Ζηνὶ κυμαίνοντ' ἔπη·
 πέποιθα δ' αὐτῷ ξὺν δίκη τὸν πυρφόρον⁵
 445 ἦξειν κεραυνόν, οὐδὲν ἐξηκασμένον
 μεσημβρινοῖσι θάλαπσιν τοῖς ἡλίου.
 ἀνὴρ δ' ἐπ' αὐτῷ, κεῖ στόμαργός ἐστ' ἄγαν,
 αἰθῶν τέτακται λῆμα, Πολυφόντου βία,
 φερέγγυον φρούρημα, προστατηρίας
 450 Ἀρτέμιδος εὐνοίαισι σύν τ' ἄλλοις θεοῖς.
 λέγ' ἄλλον ἄλλαις ἐν πύλαις εἰληχότα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὅλοιθ' ὅς πόλει μεγάλ' ἐπέυχεται, [ἀντ. α.
 κεραυνοῦ δέ νιν⁶ βέλος ἐπισχέθαι,
 πρὶν ἐμὸν ἐσθορεῖν δόμον, πωλικῶν
 455 θ⁷ ἐδωλίων ὑπερκόπῳ⁸
 δορί ποτ' ἐκλαπάξαι.

¹ κομπάσαντα M, κομπάζοντα m¹ recc.

² γλῶτ' M, γλῶττα m. ³ γίγνεται M: Porson.

⁴ γεγωνᾷ M, γεγωνᾷ m: Brunnck.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

he hath a man, a fire-bearer, armourless, save that in his hands for weapon a torch blazes ; and in letters of gold he saith " I will fire the town." Against such a warrior do thou send—who will meet him in the fray ? Who will abide his onset, his heart not turned to terror at his boasting ?

ETEOCLES

Here too is gain added with interest unto gain.¹ The tongue in sooth proveth true accuser of men's reckless thoughts ; and Capaneus utters threats, well prepared to act, dishonouring the gods ; and in vain glee plying his tongue to its full strength, sends up to heaven—mortal that he is—his surging boasts to be heard of Zeus. But right sure am I that upon him, as he well deserves, will come that fire-bearer, the thunder's bolt, no whit changed into the likeness of the sun's hot rays at midday. Against him, arrant boaster that he is, has been posted a warrior fiery of spirit, even valiant Polyphontes, a trusty guard by favour of protecting Artemis and with the aid of other gods. Say on—another, and the gate that has fallen to his lot !

[Exit Polyphontes]

CHORUS

Perish the braggart who vaunteth loud against the city ! May the thunder's bolt stay him ere ever he burst into my home and with o'erweening spear despoil my maiden bower !

¹ Tydeus' insolence (l. 387) was "gain" to our cause ; to it is now added that of Capaneus, which is like money put out at interest (τόκος).

⁵ πυρφόρων M, πυρφόρον recs.
⁷ τ' M, θ' recs.

⁶ μιν : Brunck.
⁸ υπερκόμπη : Anon.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

- καὶ μὴν τὸν ἐντεῦθεν λαχόντα πρὸς πύλαις
λέξω· τρίτῳ γάρ' Ετεόκλῳ τρίτος πάλος
ἐξ ὑπτίου ᾗδῃσεν εὐχάλκου κράνους,
460 πύλαισι Νηίστησι¹ προσβαλεῖν λόχον.
ἵππους δ' ἐν ἀμπυκτῆρσιν ἐμβριμωμένας
δινεῖ, θελούσας πρὸς πύλαις πεπτωκένας.
φιμοὶ δὲ συρίζουσι βάρβαρον τρόπον,
μυκτηροκόμοις πνεύμασιν πληρούμενοι.
465 ἐσχημάτισται² δ' ἀσπίς οὐ σμικρὸν³ τρόπον·
ἀνὴρ [δ']⁴ ὀπλίτης κλίμακος προσαμβάσεις⁵
στείχει πρὸς ἐχθρῶν πύργον, ἐκπέρσαι θέλων.
βοᾷ δὲ χούτος γραμμάτων ἐν ξυλλαβαῖς,
ὥς οὐδ' ἂν Ἀρης σφ' ἐκβάλῃ πυργωμάτων.
470 καὶ τῷδε φωτὶ πέμπε τὸν φερέγγυνον
πόλεως ἀπείργειν τῇσδε δούλιον⁶ ζυγόν.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

- πέμποιμ' ἂν ἤδη τόνδε, σὺν τύχῃ δέ τῳ·
καὶ δὴ πέπεμπται⁷ κόμπον ἐν χεροῖν ἔχων,
Μεγαρεύς, Κρέοντος σπέρμα τοῦ σπαρτῶν⁸
γένους,
475 ὅς οὔτι μάργων ἱππικῶν φρυγαγμάτων
βρόμον φεβηθεὶς ἐκ πυλῶν χωρήσεται,
ἀλλ' ἢ θανῶν τροφεία πληρώσει χθονί,
ἢ καὶ δὴ⁹ ἄνδρε καὶ πόλισμ' ἐπ' ἀσπίδος
ἐλὼν λαφύροις δῶμα κοσμήσει πατρός.
480 κόμπαζ' ἐπ' ἄλλῳ, μῆδέ μοι φθόνει λέγων.

¹ νηίστησι M, νηίτησι m¹ F, νηίταισι KN.

² ἐσχημάτισται M, ἐσχημάτισται m¹.

³ μικρὸν : Rob.

⁴ [δ'] Blomfield.

πρὸς ἀμβάσεις : Canter.

⁶ δούλειον : Blomfield.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

SCOUT

Now I will tell of him who next drew his station at the gates. To Eteocles, as third, the lot to hurl his band against the Neistan port leaped third from out the upturned helm of goodly bronze. His mares, in eagerness to fall at once upon the gate, chafe in their frontlet-bands as he wheels them to and fro; their muzzle-gear, filled with the breath of their proud nostrils, pipes in outlandish style. In no paltry fashion hath his shield been blazoned. A man in armour mounts a ladder's rungs to his foeman's fortress, bent on its destruction, and he also cries aloud, in words their letters frame, that even Ares could not hurl him from the battlements. Against him likewise do thou send one upon whom thou canst rely to avert from our city the yoke of slavery.

ETEOCLES

Here is the man whom on the instant I would send—and he's fortune's choice, methinks. [*Exit Megareus.*] Lo, already he is gone, with his two hands to do his bragging, even Megareus, Creon's seed, of the race of the Dragon's blood. Not one step will he stir him from his gate, daunted by the noisy snorting of rampant steeds; but either he will by death pay the full charge of his nurture to his native land, or he will capture even two warriors and the fortress on the shield, and with his spoils bedeck his father's house. Another and his boasting!—and stint me not thy tale.

⁷ πέπεμπτ' οὐ ΜΡΚΛΝ, πέπεμπται QγρP².
⁸ σπαρτοῦ Μ, ὦν over οὐ m¹. ⁹ δ' Μ¹, δὲ Μ².

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἐπεύχομαι τῷδε¹ μὲν εὐτυχεῖν, ἰὼ [στρ. β.
 πρόμαχ' ἐμῶν δόμων, τοῖσι δὲ δυστυχεῖν.
 ὥς δ' ὑπέρανχα βάζουσιν² ἐπὶ πτόλει
 μαινομένα φρενί, τῶς νιν
 485 Ζεὺς νεμέτωρ ἐπίδοι κοταίνων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

τέταρτος ἄλλος, γείτονας πύλας ἔχων
 "Οὔγκας Ἀθάνας, ξὺν βοῇ παρίσταται,
 Ἴππομέδοντος σχῆμα καὶ μέγας τύπος·
 490 ἄλῳ δὲ πολλήν, ἀσπίδος κύκλον λέγω,
 ἔφριξα δινήσαντος· οὐκ ἄλλως ἐρῶ.
 ὁ σηματοργὸς δ' οὐ τις εὐτελὴς ἄρ' ἦν
 ὅστις τόδ' ἔργον ὥπασεν πρὸς ἀσπίδι,
 Τυφῶν' ἰέντα πύρπνοον· διὰ στόμα
 λιγνὺν μέλαιναν, αἰόλην πυρὸς κάσιν·
 495 ὄψεων δὲ πλεκτάναισι περιδρομον κύτος
 προσηδάφισται κοιλογάστορος κύκλου.
 αὐτὸς δ' ἐπηλάλαξεν, ἔνθεος δ' Ἀρει
 βακχᾶ πρὸς ἀλκὴν Θυιάς³ ὥς φόβον βλέπων.
 τοιοῦδε φωτὸς πείραν εὖ φυλακτέον·
 500 ὦβος γὰρ ἤδη πρὸς πύλαις κομπάζεται.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

πρῶτον μὲν "Οὔγκα Παλλὰς, ἥτ' ἀγχίπολις,
 πύλαισι γείτων, ἀνδρὸς ἐχθαίρουσ' ὕβριν,
 εἵρξει νεοσσῶν ὥς δράκοντα δύσχιμον·
 505 Ἵπέρβιος δέ, κεδνὸς Οἶνοπος τόκος,
 ἀνὴρ κατ' ἀνδρα τοῦτον ἡρέθη, θέλων
 ἐξιστορῆσαι μοῖραν ἐν χρεῖα τύχης,

¹ δὴ τὰδε M, δὴ τῷδε Q'KL, τῷδε Cant. 1.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

CHORUS

O champion of my home, I pray that fortune may be propitious unto him and hostile unto them. As in the frenzy of their souls they utter arrogant boasts against the city, so may Zeus, the Awarder, turn upon them an eye of wrath!

SCOUT

Another, the fourth, hath as his station the port nigh unto Onca Athena, and advances with a shout—Hippomedon, stately in shape and of mighty bulk. And as he whirled round his mighty orb ('tis the circle of his buckler I mean) a shudder came upon me—gainsay it I cannot. No sorry craftsman sure was he, the blazoner, who wrought this work upon the shield—Typhon, belching from his fire-breathing mouth a murky smoke, flame's flickering sister; and the encircling casing of his hollow-bellied orb is made fast to its ground by intertwining snakes. The champion himself has shouted his battle-cry, and inspired by Ares, raves, like a Bacchant, for the fray, flashing terror from his glance. Well must we guard against the assault of such a warrior, for already at the port Terror makes its vaunt.

ETEOCLES

First Onca Pallas, whose abode is nigh, hard by the port, loathing the arrogance of man, will fend him off, like a chill snake from a nestling brood. To match him, man to encounter man, Hyperbius, Oenops' trusty son, was chosen; for he is minded to make trial of his fortune in the stress of need—

² βάζουσ' M, βάζουσιν recc. ³ θυὰς M, most mss., θυιάς N.

- οὐτ' εἶδος οὔτε θυμὸν οὔδ' ὄπλων σχέσιν
 μωμητός, Ἑρμῆς δ' εὐλόγως ξυνήγαγεν.¹
 ἐχθρὸς γὰρ ἀνὴρ² ἀνδρὶ τῷ ξυστήσεται,
 510 ξυνοίσετον δὲ πολεμίους ἐπ' ἀσπίδων
 θεούς· ὁ μὲν γὰρ πύρπνοον Τυφῶν' ἔχει,
 Ὑπερβίῳ δὲ Ζεὺς πατὴρ ἐπ' ἀσπίδος
 σταδαῖος ἦσται, διὰ χερὸς βέλος φλέγων·
 515 κοῦπω τις εἶδε Ζῆν' ἀνὰ που νικώμενον.
 τοιάδε μέντοι προσφίλεια δαιμόνων·
 πρὸς τῶν κρατούντων δ' ἐσμέν, οἱ δ' ἥσσω-
 μένων,
 εἰ Ζεὺς γε Τυφῶ καρτερώτερος μάχῃ·
 519 ³εἰκὸς δέ⁴ πράξειν⁵ ἄνδρας ᾧδ' ἀντιστάτας,
 518 Ὑπερβίῳ τε πρὸς λόγον τοῦ σήματος
 520 σωτήρ γένοιτ' ἂν Ζεὺς ἐπ' ἀσπίδος τυχών.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πέποιθα <δὴ>⁶ τὸν Διὸς ἀντίτυπον ἔχοντ'
 [ἀντ. β.]

- ἄφιλον ἐν σάκει τοῦ χθονίου δέμας
 δαίμονος,⁷ ἐχθρὸν εἴκασμα βροτοῖς⁷ τε καὶ
 525 δαροβίοισι θεοῖσιν,
 ἐρόσθε πυλᾶν κεφαλὰν ἰάψειν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

οὕτως γένοιτο. τὸν δὲ πέμπτον αὖ λέγω,
 πέμπταισι προσταχθέντα Βορραῖαις⁸ πύλαις,
 τύμβον κατ' αὐτὸν Διογενοῦς Ἀμφίονος·
 ὄμνυσι δ' αἰχμὴν ἣν ἔχει μᾶλλον θεοῦ

¹ συνήγαγεν: Brunck.

² ἀνὴρ: Porson.

³ So PQ, other mss. reverse order.

⁴ γε M, δε m¹.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

in form, in spirit, and in the fashion of his arms, without reproach. Fitley hath Hermes¹ confronted them; for the man is at enmity with the man whom he will face, and hostile to each other are the gods upon their shields whom the twain will bring to battle. The one hath Typhon breathing fire, while on Hyperbius' shield sitteth, firm and ready, Father Zeus, in his hand a bolt ablaze; and never yet, I trow, hath man seen Zeus o'erthrown. Such then on either side is the favour of the powers divine: with the victors are we, they with the vanquished, if Zeus, in truth, is mightier in battle than Typhon. And it is like that the mortal champions too should fare even as their gods; and so to Hyperbius, in accordance with his blazon, Zeus will prove a Saviour, for that he is set upon his shield. [*Exit Hyperbius*]

CHORUS

Full sure am I that the antagonist of Zeus, since he beareth on his buckler the unloved form of the earth-born power, a semblance loathed of men and of the long-lived gods, will lay low his head before our port.

SCOUT

May it prove even so! But of the fifth I next report, of him appointed to the fifth, the Northern port full opposite the tomb of Amphion, son of Zeus. He grasps a spear, which, in his assurance,

¹ Hermes presided over contests and lots.

⁵ πράξιν M, πράξειν m¹.

⁷ δαίμων . . . βροτοῖσι: Brunnck.

⁶ <δη> N (Triclinius).

⁸ βορρέας M: Porson.

- 530 σέβειν πεποιθὼς ὁμμάτων θ' ὑπέρτερον,
 ἥ μὴν λαπάξειν ἄστν Καδμείων βία
 Διός· τόδ' αὐδ' αὖ μητρὸς¹ ἔξ ὀρεσκόου
 βλάστημα καλλίπρωρον, ἀνδρόπαις ἀνὴρ·
 535 στείχει δ' Ἴουλος ἄρτι διὰ παρηίδων,
 ὦρας φνούσης, ταρφὺς ἀντέλλουσα θρίξ.
 ὁ δ' ὦμόν, οὔτι παρθένων ἐπώννυμον,
 φρόνημα, γοργὸν δ' ὅμμ' ἔχων, προσίσταται.
 οὐ μὴν ἀκόμπαστός γ' ἐφίσταται πύλαις·
 540 τὸ γὰρ πόλεως ὄνειδος ἐν χαλκηλάτῳ
 σάκει, κυκλωτῷ σώματος προβλήματι,
 Σφίγγ' ὠμόσιτον προσμεμηχανημένην
 γόμφους ἐνώμα, λαμπρὸν ἔκκρουστον δέμας,
 φέρει δ' ὑφ' αὐτῇ φῶτα Καδμείων ἕνα,
 ὡς πλείστ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδ' ἰάπτεσθαι βέλη.
 545 ἔλθων δ' ἔοικεν οὐ καπηλεύσειν μάχην,
 μακρὰς κελεύθου δ' οὐ καταισχυνεῖν² πόρον,
 Παρθενοπαῖος Ἀρκάς· ὁ δὲ τοιόσδ' ἀνὴρ
 μέτοικος, Ἄργει δ' ἐκτίνων καλὰς τροφάς,
 πύργοις ἀπείλει τοῖσδ' ἅ μὴ κραῖνοι θεός.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

- 550 εἰ γὰρ τύχοιεν ὧν φρονοῦσι πρὸς θεῶν,
 αὐτοῖς ἐκείνοις ἀνοσίους κομπάσμασιν·
 ἥ τὰν πανώλεις παγκάκως τ' ὀλοίατο.
 ἔστιν δὲ καὶ τῷδ', ὃν λέγεις τὸν Ἀρκάδα,
 ἀνὴρ ἀκομπος, χεῖρ δ' ὀρᾷ τὸ δράσιμον,

¹ ματρὸς M, μητρὸς recc.

² καταισχύνειν M, καταισχυνεῖν m.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

he holds in higher honour than a god and as more precious than his eyes; and by it he swears an oath that verily he will lay waste the city of the Cadmeans spite of Zeus himself. So speaks the fair-faced offspring of a mother that dwells among the hills—a warrior, half man, half boy, and along his cheeks the down is but now spreading, youth's earliest crop, the thick upspringing hair. Savage of heart, in no wise suited to his maiden name,¹ and grim of glance, he now advances; nor indeed doth he take his stand at the gate without his vaunt; for on his bronze-wrought buckler, his body's orb'd defence, he kept ever swinging to and fro our city's shame, the raw-devouring Sphinx, a burnished and embossed figure, cunningly riveted thereon. A man she bears beneath her, a Cadmean, so that this warrior may be chief target of our missiles. 'Tis like that, once arrived, he will do no petty trading in the fight, nor bring shame upon his long journey's course—Parthenopaeus, of Arcadia. Of such sort is the man, and to make full payment for his goodly nurture unto Argos, wherein he dwelleth as an alien guest, he now utters such threats against our ramparts. May Heaven fulfil them not!

ETEOCLES

Oh! would they might but get from Heaven the things whereof they dream, themselves with all their unhallowed boastings; full surely then in utter ruin and in utter misery would they be destroyed. But against this Arcadian too, of whom thou tellest, we have our man, no braggart he, but his hand marks

¹ Parthenopaeus "maiden-faced." His mother Atalanta dwelt on Mt. Maenalus in Arcadia.

- 555 Ἄκτωρ ἀδελφὸς τοῦ πάρος λελεγμένου·
ὃς οὐκ ἔασει γλῶσσαν ἐργμάτων ἄτερ
ἔσω πυλῶν ῥέουσιν ἀλδαίνειν κακά,
οὐδ' εἰσαμεῦσαι θηρὸς ἐχθίστου δάκουσ
εἰκὼν φέροντα πολέμιας ἐπ' ἀσπίδος·
560 ἧ ἔωθεν¹ εἴσω τῷ φέροντι μέμψεται,
πυκνοῦ κροτησμοῦ τυγχάνουσ' ὑπὸ πτόλιν.
θεῶν θελόντων τᾶν² ἀληθεύσαιμ' ἐγώ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- ἰκνεῖται λόγος διὰ στήθέων,
τριχὸς δ' ὀρθίας πλόκαμος ἵσταται, [στρ. γ.
565 μεγάλα μεγαληγόρων κλυούσα³
ἄνοσίων ἀνδρῶν. εἴθε γὰρ
θεοὶ⁴ τοῦσδ' ὀλέσειαν ἐν γῇ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

- ἔκτον λέγοιμ' ἂν ἄνδρα σωφρονέστατον,
ἀλκὴν τ' ἄριστον μάντιν, Ἀμφιάρεω βίαν·
570 Ὀμολωίσιν δὲ πρὸς πύλαις τεταγμένος
κακοῖσι βάζει πολλὰ Τυδέως βίαν·
τὸν ἀνδρσφόντην, τὸν πόλεως ταρακτορα,
μέγιστον Ἄργει τῶν κακῶν διδάσκαλον,
Ἐρινύος κλητῆρα, πρόσπολον φόνου,
575 κακῶν τ' Ἀδράστῳ τῶνδε βουλευτήριον.
καὶ τὸν σὸν αὖθις προσθροῶν⁵ ὁμόσπορον,⁶
ἐξυπτιάζων ὄμμα,⁷ Πολυνείκους βίαν,
δῖς τ' ἐν τελευτῇ τοῦνομ' ἐνδατούμενος,
καλεῖ. λέγει δὲ τοῦτ' ἔπος διὰ στόμα·

¹ ἔωθεν : Porson.

² δ' ἂν M, ἂν VHQQ, τ' ἂν P².

³ κλύων M, κλύουσ' recc. : Herm.

⁴ εἰ θεοὶ (θεῶ M¹) θεοὶ M, εἴθε γὰρ θεοὶ PQLK.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

the thing to do,—Actor, brother to him I named before. He will not suffer words without deeds to pour within his gate and foster mischief, nor will he grant entrance to one who, on his foeman's shield, bears the image of a monstrous and abhorred beast. That beast outside his shield will have reason to reproach him who would bear her within, when she is dealt many a hammering blow beneath the city's walls. If the gods so will, I may indeed prove true prophet!

[*Exit Actor*]

CHORUS

His words pierce my heart, my hair stands on end as I hear the loud threatenings of these loud-boasting, impious men. Oh that the gods would overwhelm them here in our land!

SCOUT

Sixth I will name a warrior passing wise, a seer most valiant in combat, even mighty Amphiaraüs. Posted at the Homoloid port, he assails stalwart Tydeus full oft with bitter names—"murderer, troubler of the State, Argos' chief teacher in the ways of wrong, summoner of the Avenging Curse, minister of bloodshed, counsellor unto Adrastus in his present evil course." Thereafter with uplifted eyes addressing thy own brother, valiant Polynices, he calls him by his name, dwelling twice upon its latter part,¹ and these are the words that passed his

¹ Polynices "much-strife" (πολὺ νείκος). ἐνδατούμενος, literally "separating," i.e. dwelling with emphasis on each separate part of the name.

⁵ προσμόραν M, πρόσμορον recc. : Francken.

⁶ ἀδελφὸν : ἀδελφὸν Francken.

⁷ ὄνομα : Schütz.

- 580 “ ἢ τοῖον ἔργον καὶ θεοῖσι προσφιλές,
καλὸν τ’ ἀκοῦσαι καὶ λέγειν μεθυστέροις,
πόλιν πατρώαν καὶ θεοὺς τοὺς ἐγγενεῖς
πορθεῖν, στράτευμ’ ἐπακτὸν ἐμβεβληκότα;
μητρός τε πηγὴν τίς κατασβέσει δίκη;
585 πατρίς τε¹ γαῖα σῆς ὑπὸ σπουδῆς δορὶ
ἀλοῦσα πῶς σοι ξύμμαχος γενήσεται;
ἔγωγε μὲν δὴ τήνδε πιανῶ χθόνα,
μάντις κεκευθὼς πολεμίας ὑπὸ χθονός.²
μαχώμεθ’, οὐκ ἄτιμον ἐλπίζω μόρον.”
590 τοιαῦθ’ ὁ μάντις ἀσπίδ’ εὐκῆλως ἔχων³
πάγχαλκον ἠὔδα· σῆμα δ’ οὐκ ἐπὴν κύκλω.
οὐ γὰρ δοκεῖν ἄριστος, ἀλλ’ εἶναι θέλει,
βαθεῖαν ἄλοκα διὰ φρενὸς καρπούμενος,
ἐξ ἧς τὰ κεδνὰ βλαστάνει βουλευμάτα.
595 τούτῳ σοφούς τε κάγαθούς ἀντηρέτας
πέμπειν ἐπαινῶ. δεινὸς δς θεοὺς σέβει.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

- φεῦ τοῦ ξυναλλάσσοντος ὄρνιθος βροτοῖς⁴
δίκαιον ἄνδρα τοῖσι δυσσεβεστέροις.⁵
ἐν παντὶ πράγει δ’ ἔσθ’ ὁμιλίας κακῆς
600 κάκιον οὐδέν, καρπὸς οὐ κομιστέος·
ἄτης ἄρουρα θάνατον ἐκκαρπίζεται.
ἦ γὰρ ξυνεισβάς πλοῖον εὐσεβῆς ἀνὴρ
ναύταισι θερμοῖς καὶ πανουργίᾳ τινὶ
ὄλωλεν ἀνδρῶν σὺν θεοπτύστῳ γένει,

¹ δὲ M most rec., τε AVKP γρ.

² ἐπιχθονὸς M, ἐπὶ χθονός most rec., ὑπὸ χθονός PV.

³ εὐκῆλον ἔχων M, εὐκυκλον νέμων m: Weil.

⁴ βροτοῖς M, βροτοῖς m¹ rec.

⁵ δυσσεβεστέροις M, σ superscr. m., δυσσεβεστάτοις rec.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

lips: "Of a truth is such a deed as this well pleasing unto Heaven, and to thy fame for men in days to come to hear and tell of—that thou dost ravage the city of thy sires and the gods of thine own race by hurling upon them an invading host? The mother's fount¹—what righteousness shall drain it dry? The fatherland—how shall it, through thy ambition vanquished by the sword, join its cause with thine? As for me, I shall enrich this earth, sepulchred, a seer, beneath a foeman's soil. Let us fight! I look for no inglorious death." In this wise spake the seer, holding at rest his buckler all of bronze. Blazon was there none upon its orb—for his resolve is not to seem the bravest, but to be; and he reaps the harvest of his mind's deep furrowing, whence his sage counsels spring. Against him I would have thee send an antagonist both wise and brave. To be dreaded is he who reveres the gods.

ETEOCLES

Out upon the fortune of mortals that brings together the just man with the unrighteous! In every issue naught is more evil than evil partnership—the fruit thereof must have no garnering. The field of infatuation yields as its harvest death. It may be that the godly man, embarked together with sailors hotly bent on some piece of villainy, perishes along with the heaven-detested crew; or,

¹ μητρὸς πηγῇ strictly means "source, which consists in a mother." Having used this expression for "mother, who is the source of life," the poet accommodates the verb to the literal sense of πηγῇ rather than use a verb of slaying which would have suited the personal object.

- 605 ἢ ξὺν πολίταις ἀνδράσιν δίκαιος ὢν
 ἐχθροξένοις τε καὶ θεῶν ἀμνήμοσιν,
 ταῦτοῦ κυρήσας ἐκδίκως ἀγρεύματος,
 πληγεῖς θεοῦ μάστιγι παγκοίνῳ ὀδῶν.
 οὕτως δ' ὁ μάντις, νῖδον Οἰκλέους¹ λέγων,
 610 σῶφρων δίκαιος ἀγαθὸς εὐσεβὴς ἀνὴρ,
 μέγας προφῆτης, ἀνοσίοισι συμμιγεῖς
 θρασυστόμοισιν ἀνδράσιν βία φρενῶν,
 τείνουσι πομπὴν τὴν μακρὰν πάλιν μολεῖν,
 Διὸς θέλοντος ξυγκαθεικυσθήσεται.
 615 δοκῶ μὲν οὖν σφε μὴδὲ προσβαλεῖν πύλαις,
 οὐχ ὥς ἄθυμος οὐδὲ λήματος κάκη,
 ἀλλ' οἶδεν ὥς σφε χρὴ τελευτῆσαι μάχῃ,
 εἰ καρπὸς ἔσται θεσφάτοισι Λοξίου·
 φιλεῖ δὲ σιγᾶν ἢ λέγειν τὰ καίρια.
 620 ὅμως δ' ἐπ' αὐτῷ φῶτα, Λασθένου βίαν,
 ἐχθρόξενον πυλωρὸν ἀντιτάξομεν,
 γέροντα τὸν νοῦν, σάρκα δ' ἡβῶσαν φύει,²
 ποδῶκες ὄμμα, χεῖρα δ' οὐ βραδύνεται
 παρ' ἀσπίδος γυμνωθὲν ἀρπάσαι δόρυ.
 625 θεοῦ δὲ δῶρόν ἐστιν εὐτυχεῖν βροτούς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- κλύοντες θεοὶ δικαίᾳς λιτὰς [ἀντ. γ.
 ἀμετέρας³ τελείθ', ὡς πόλις εὐτυχῇ,
 δορίπονα κάκ' ἐκτρέποντες <ἐς> γᾶς⁴
 ἐπιμόλους· πύργων δ' ἔκτοθεν
 630 βαλὼν Ζεὺς σφε κᾶνοι κεραυνῷ.

¹ οἰκλέους M: Porson.

² φύσει M, φέρει m¹ many recc.: Wellauer.

³ ἡμετέρας: Dindorf.

⁴ γᾶς ἐπιμόλους M, with εἰς above ἐπὶ m¹, γᾶς πρὸς ἐπιμόλους recc.: Herm.

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in the other case, though just himself, if that he consorts with fellow-citizens who hate all strangers and remember not the gods, he falls, beyond his due, into the selfsame snare and is tamed when smitten by Heaven's impartial lash.

Even so the seer, Oecles' son, a man sagacious, just, brave, and godly, a wise interpreter of Heaven's will—leaguings, against his better reason, with unholy, bold-mouthed men, who proceed in long train upon the road that is far to retrace¹—shall, by the will of Zeus, be dragged down in ruin along with them.

I have, therefore, no thought that he will even attack the gates : not that he lacks mettle or because he is craven of spirit, but he knows that it is his doom to meet his end in the fray, if there is to be fruitage unto the prophecies of Loxias—and he is wont either to keep silent or to speak what the hour demands. Howbeit, to encounter him, we will oppose a warrior, stalwart Lasthenes, a warder surly unto strangers at the city's doors. Old is he in mind, but his flesh is at its prime, his eye quick to direct his foot, nor does he let his hand tarry for his spear to strike whatever is uncovered by the shield. Yet 'tis Heaven's gift for mortals to succeed.

[*Exit Lasthenes*]

CHORUS

Hearken, ye gods, to our supplications in a righteous cause, and vouchsafe their fulfilment, even that fortune be with our city, and avert war's horrors from us upon the invaders of our land ! May Zeus smite and slay them with his bolt outside the walls !

¹ The march of the army from distant Argos is compared to a lengthened-out procession.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

- τὸν ἔβδομον δὴ τόνδ' ἐφ' ἐβδόμαις πύλαις
 λέξω, τὸν αὐτοῦ σοῦ κασίγνητον, πόλει
 οἷας¹ ἀράται καὶ κατεύχεται τύχας·
 πύργοις ἐπεμβὰς κάπικηρυχθεὶς χθονί,
 635 ἀλώσιμον παιᾶν' ἐπεξιακχάσας,
 σοὶ ξυμφέρεσθαι καὶ κτανῶν θανεῖν πέλας,
 ἢ ζῶντ' ἀτιμαστήρα τῶς² ἀνδρηλάτην
 φυγῇ τὸν αὐτὸν τόνδε τείσασθαι³ τρόπον.
 τοιαῦτ' αὐτεῖ καὶ θεοὺς γενεθλίου
 640 καλεῖ πατρώας γῆς ἐποπτῆρας λιτῶν
 τῶν ὧν γενέσθαι πάγχυ Πολυνείκους βία.
 ἔχει δὲ καινοπηγὲς εὐκυκλον σάκος
 διπλοῦν τε σῆμα προσμεμηχανημένον.
 χρυσήλατον γάρ ἄνδρα τευχηστήν ἰδεῖν
 645 ἄγει γυνή τις σωφρόνως ἡγουμένη.
 Δίκη δ' ἄρ' εἶναί φησιν, ὥς τὰ γράμματα
 λέγει⁴ “κατάξω δ' ἄνδρα τόνδε καὶ πόλιν
 ἕξει πατρῶων δωμάτων τ' ἐπιστροφάς.”
 τοιαῦτ' ἐκείνων ἐστὶ τάξευρήματα.
 650 [σὺ δ' αὐτὸς ἤδη γινῶθι τίνα πέμπειν δοκεῖ·]⁵
 ὥς οὐποτ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε κηρυκευμάτων
 μέμψῃ, σὺ δ' αὐτὸς γινῶθι ναυκληρεῖν πόλιν.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

- ὦ θεομανές τε καὶ θεῶν μέγα στύγος,
 655 ὦ πανδάκρυτον ἄμὸν Οἰδίπου γένος·
 ὦμοι, πατρὸς δὴ νῦν ἀραὶ τελεσφόροι.

¹ οἷα γ' M, οἷας γ' m¹, οἷας K¹N.

² τῶς M, τῶς m¹.

⁴ λέξει M, λέγει recc.

³ τίσασθαι: Wilam.

⁵ [] Halm.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

SCOUT

Last I must report of him at the seventh gate,¹ the seventh champion, thine own brother, and what fate he imprecates and invokes upon the city. He prays that, his foot set upon her walls, proclaimed as conqueror in the land, after raising a wild shout of triumph at its overthrow, he then may close with thee, and if he slay thee, perish at thy side, or, if thou escapest with thy life, that he may requite thee in the self-same wise with exile even as thou didst thus dishonour him with banishment. Such menaces he shouts forth, and he calls upon the gods of his race and fatherland to have regard unto his prayers—a violent Polynices in very sooth. A buckler he bears, well-rounded and newly-wrought, with a twofold blazon cunningly fixed thereon; for a being in woman's form, advancing with modest mien, conducts a warrior in armed guise, fashioned in beaten gold. Justice, it seemeth, she declares herself, as the legend runs: "And I will bring back unto his home this man and he shall have a country, and shall range in his father's halls."

Such is the nature of the devices of their champions. [Do thou forthwith determine for thyself whom thou must send.] Thou shalt find no fault with me for my report; but it is thy part alone to judge how thou must steer the ship of State. *[Exit]*

ETEOCLES

O maddened of Heaven and by Heaven deeply loathed, O steeped in tears, our house of Oedipus! Woe is me! now indeed our father's curses bear

¹ The ominous "seventh" is substituted for "the Highest" (*Τψισται*).

- ἀλλ' οὔτε κλαίειν οὔτ' ὀδύρεσθαι πρέπει,
 μὴ καὶ τεκνωθῇ δυσφορώτερος γόος.
 ἐπωνύμῳ δὲ κάρτα, Πολυνείκει¹ λέγω,
 τάχ' εἰσόμεσθα τοῦπίσημ' ὅποι τελεῖ,
 660 εἴ νιν κατάξει χρυσότευκτα γράμματα
 ἐπ' ἀσπίδος φλύοντα σὺν² φοίτῳ φρενῶν.
 εἰ δ' ἡ Διὸς παῖς παρθένος Δίκη παρῇν
 ἔργοις ἐκείνου καὶ φρεσίν, τάχ' ἂν τόδ' ἦν·
 ἀλλ' οὔτε νιν φυγόντα μητρόθεν σκότον,
 665 οὔτ' ἐν τροφαῖσιν, οὔτ' ἐφηβήσαντά πω,
 οὔτ' ἐν γενείου ξυλλογῇ τριχώματος,
 Δίκη προσεῖδε³ καὶ κατηξιώσατο·
 οὐδ'⁴ ἐν πατρώας μὴν χθονὸς κακουχία
 οἶμαι νιν αὐτῷ νῦν παραστατεῖν πέλας.
 670 ἦ δῆτ'⁵ ἂν εἴη πανδίκως ψευδώνυμος
 Δίκη, ξυνοῦσα φωτὶ παντόλμῳ φρένας.
 τούτοις πεποιθὼς εἰμι καὶ ξυστήσομαι
 αὐτός· τίς ἄλλος μᾶλλον ἐνδικώτερος;
 ἄρχοντί τ' ἄρχων καὶ κασιγνήτῳ κάσις,
 675 ἐχθρὸς σὺν ἐχθρῷ στήσομαι. φέρ' ὥς τάχος
 κνημῖδας, αἰχμῆς καὶ πέτρων⁶ προβλήματα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

- μῆ, φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν, Οἰδίπου τέκος, γένη
 ὄργην ὁμοῖος τῷ κάκιστ' αὐδωμένῳ·
 ἀλλ' ἄνδρας Ἀργείοισι Καδμείους ἄλīs
 680 ἐς χεῖρας⁷ ἐλθεῖν· αἷμα γὰρ καθάρσιον.
 ἀνδροῖν δ' ὁμαίμοιν θάνατος ὦδ' αὐτοκτόνος,⁸
 οὐκ ἔστι γῆρας τοῦδε τοῦ μιάσματος.

¹ πολυνείκει with final ει in erasure, -νείκη recc.

² συμ Μ, σὺν recc.

³ προσεῖπε: B. Martin from schol.

⁴ οὔτ' Μ many recc., οὐδ' recc.

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their fruit in deeds.—But it beseems me not either to weep or wail, lest a grief harder yet to bear be brought to birth. As for him so fitly named—this Polynices—we shall know anon to what end his blazonry will come; whether gold-wrought letters babbling upon his shield, along with witlessness of soul, shall bring him home. Had Justice, the virgin daughter of Zeus, attended his actions and his thoughts, this might perchance have been. But as it is, neither when he fled the darkness of his mother's womb, nor in his nurture, nor ever when he grew to youthful manhood, nor when the hair was gathering on his chin, did Justice accost him and claim him as her own. Nor yet again do I think that now, when he does outrage to his fatherland, doth she stand by his side, his champion. Aye, verily, Justice were all justly false in name were she to consort with one all-daring in his purpose. In this I put my confidence and will go forth and face him—I myself. Who else hath a claim more just? Chieftain against chieftain, brother against brother, foe against foe, I will take my stand. Quick, my greaves to fend off spear and stone!

CHORUS

Ah no, dearest of men, thou son of Oedipus, show not thyself like in temper unto him who utters such dire words. Nay, 'tis enough for Cadmeans to come to close grapple with Argives; for of that blood there is expiation. But death dealt thus one to other by two of one blood—of *that* pollution there is no growing old.

⁵ ἦδητ' M: Wecklein.

⁷ χείρας M, χείρας recc.

⁶ πέτρων changed to πετρῶν M.

⁸ αὐτόκτονος M, αὐτοκτόνος m¹.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

685 εἴπερ κακὸν φέροι τις, αἰσχύνῃς ἄτερ
ἔστω· μόνον γὰρ κέρδος ἐν τεθνηκόσι·
κακῶν δὲ καὶ ἀσυχρῶν οὕτιν' εὐκλείαν ἐρεῖς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί μέμονας,¹ τέκνον; μή τί σε² θυμοπλη- [στρ. α.
θῆς δορίμαργος³ ἄτα φερέτω· κακοῦ δ'
ἔκβαλ'⁴ ἔρωτος ἀρχάν.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

690 ἐπεὶ τὸ πρᾶγμα κάρτ' ἐπισπέρχει θεός,
ἴτω κατ' οὖρον κῦμα Κωκυτοῦ λαχόν
Φοῖβω στυγηθὲν πᾶν τὸ Λαῖου γένος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὠμοδακῆς σ' ἄγαν ἥμερος ἐξοτρύ- [ἀντ. α.
νει πικρόκαρπον ἀνδροκτασίαν⁵ τελεῖν
αἵματος οὐ θεμιστοῦ.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

695 φίλου γὰρ ἐχθρά⁶ μοι πατρὸς τάλαινα⁷ ἀρὰ
ξήροισ ἀκλαύτοις ὄμμασιν προσιζάνει,
λέγουσα κέρδος πρότερον ὑστέρου μόρου.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλὰ σὺ μὴ ποτρύνου· κακὸς οὐ κεκλή- [στρ. β.
ση βίον εὖ κυρήσας· μελάναιγισ [δ'] οὐκ⁸

¹ μέμονας M, η over ο m¹. ² μήτις: Aldina.
³ δορί μάργος M, δορίμαργος recc. ⁴ ἔκβαλ' M, ἔκβαλλ' m¹.
⁵ ἀνδροκτασίαν M, ἀνδροκτασίαν m¹.
⁶ αἰσχροῖα M, ἐχθρά recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ETEOCLES

If indeed man should suffer ill, let it be clear of dishonour; for that counts as the sole gain when men are dead. But of ill coupled with dishonour thou canst not say aught that's good.

CHORUS

For what art thou so eager, child? Let not mad lust for battle fill thy soul and carry thee away. Cast from thee the evil passion at its birth.

ETEOCLES

Since Heaven so urgently presses on the event, let all the race of Laius, that hath incurred Phoebus' hate, drift adown the wind, apportioned to Cocytus' wave!

CHORUS

Too savage a passion impels thee to a rite of slaughter of unlawful blood; and bitter is the fruit thereof.

ETEOCLES

Aye, for mine own father's ruinous and hateful curse haunts my dry eyes that cannot weep, and tells me first of gain and then of death.¹

CHORUS

Nay, resist its impulse. A craven's name thou shalt not bear since thou hast prospered well in life

¹ Literally "gain coming before death that comes later." The curse whispers "slay him, then be slain thyself."

⁷ τέλει M, τελεία m¹, τελεί' recc.: Wordsworth.
⁸ δ' οὐκ: οὐκ Arnaldus.

700 εἶσι δόμων Ἑρινύς, ὅταν ἐκ χερῶν
θεοὶ θυσίαν δέχωνται;¹

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

θεοῖς μὲν ἤδη πως παρημελήμεθα,
χάρις δ' ἀφ' ἡμῶν ὀλομένων θαυμάζεται·
τί οὖν ἔτ' ἂν σαίνοιμεν ὀλέθριον μόρον;

ΧΟΡΟΣ

705 νῦν ὅτε σοι παρέστακεν· ἐπεὶ δαίμων [ἀντ. β.
λήματος ἐν τροπαία χρονία² μεταλ-
λακτὸς ἴσως ἂν ἔλθοι θελεμωτέρῳ³
πνεύματι· νῦν δ' ἔτι ζεῖ.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

710 ἐξέξεσεν⁴ γὰρ Οἰδίπου κατεύγματα·
ἄγαν δ' ἀληθεῖς ἐνυπνίων φαντασμάτων
ὄψεις, πατρῶων χρημάτων δατήριοι.⁵

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πιθοῦ⁶ γυναιξί, καίπερ οὐ στέργων ὄμωσ.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

λέγοιτ' ἂν ὦν ἄνη τις⁷· οὐδὲ χρὴ μακράν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

μὴ ᾗθις ὁδοὺς σὺ τάσδ' ἐφ' ἐβδόμαις πύλαις.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

715 τεθηγμένον τοί μ' οὐκ ἀπαμβλυνεῖς λόγῳ.

¹ The mark of interrogation is due to Tucker.

² ἀντροπαία χρονία M, ἀντροπαία χρόνια m: Aldina.

³ θα*λωτέρῳ M, θαλερωτέρῳ m¹ recc.: Conington.

⁴ ἐξέξεσαν M, ἐξέξεσεν recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

Will not the sable-palled Avenging Spirit quit the house, when the gods receive oblation at thy hands ?

ETEOCLES

The gods, it seems, have long since ceased their care of us. The service they value at our hands is that we perish. Why then should we longer fawn upon the doom of death ?

CHORUS

Now, when it stands close at hand. For the Evil Spirit shifting its mood perchance may veer, albeit late, and come with gentler breath. But as yet it rages in fury.

ETEOCLES

Aye, made to rage in fury by the curse of Oedipus. All too true the phantoms of my nightly dreams portending division of our father's heritage !

CHORUS

Be ruled by women although thou likest it not.

ETEOCLES

Say aught that's possible ; nor need ye speak at length.

CHORUS

Go *thou* not forth on this mission to defend the seventh gate !

ETEOCLES

Thy words, I tell thee, shall not blunt my sharpened purpose.

⁵ δοτήρι** (ο made from ω) M, δοτήριον m.
⁶ πείθου : Blomfield, ⁷ τίς M, τίς m¹.

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΡΟΣ

νίκην γε μέντοι καὶ κακὴν τιμῇ θεός.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

οὐκ ἄνδρ' ὀπλίτην τοῦτο χρή στέργειν ἔπος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἀλλ' αὐτάδελφον αἶμα δρέψασθαι θέλεις;

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ

θεῶν διδόντων οὐκ ἂν ἐκφύγοις κακά.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

720 πέφρικα τὰν ὠλεσίοικον [στρ. α.

θεόν, οὐ θεοῖς ὁμοίαν,

παναλαθῇ¹ κακόμαντιν

πατρός εὐκταίαν Ἑρινὺν

τελέσαι τὰς περιθύμους

725 κατάρας Οἰδιπόδα βλαιψίφρονος²

παιδολέτωρ δ' ἔρις ᾗδ³ ὀτρύνει.

ξένος δὲ κλήρους⁴ ἐπινωμῇ,

[ἀντ. α.

Ἰάλυβος Σκυθᾶν⁵ ἄποικος,

κτεάνων χρηματοδαίτας

730 πικρός, ὠμόφρων σίδaros,

χθόνα ναίειν διαπήλας,

ὅποσαν καὶ φθιμένοισιν κατέχειν,

τῶν μεγάλων πεδίων ἀμοίρους.

ἐπεὶ δ' ἂν⁶ αὐτοκτόνως⁷

[στρ. β.

735 αὐτοδαίκτοι θάνωσι,

¹ παιαληθῇ M: Dindorf.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

CHORUS

Aye, yet victory, though inglorious, is held in honour by the gods.

ETEOCLES

No soldier may brook an utterance like that.

CHORUS

What! Wilt thou make harvest of thine own brother's blood?

ETEOCLES

From heaven-sent ills there's no escape. [Exit

CHORUS

I shudder in terror at the power divine, unlike all other gods, that bringeth desolation upon homes, that forebodeth woe unerringly, the Avenging Spirit invoked by a father's prayer. I shudder at its working fulfilment of the imprecation uttered in excess of wrath by Oedipus distraught. This strife, deadly to his sons, stirreth it to work.

A stranger it is that apportioneth their inheritance, the Chalyb that hath come, a settler here, from Scythia, a ruthless distributor of wealth, even savage-hearted steel that hath allotted them as¹ land wherein to dwell even so much as may be theirs to hold in death—disportioned of these wide demesnes.

But when they shall have perished, slain by

² βλαψίφρονος οἰδιπόδα: N (Triclinius).

³ ἔρις δ' M. ἔρις ἄδ' m¹.

⁴ κλήρους M¹ (?), κλήρους M² recc.

⁵ σκυθῶν: Dindorf. ⁶ ἐπεὶ δ' ἂν M. ἐπειδὴν recc.

⁷ αὐτοκτόνωνσιν M, αὐτοκτόνως recc.

- καὶ γὰρ¹ κόνις πῆν
 μελαμπαγὲς αἶμα φοίνιον,
 τίς ἂν καθαρμοὺς² πόροι,
 τίς ἂν σφε λούσειεν; ὦ
 740 πόνοι δόμων νέοι παλαι-
 οῖσι συμμιγείς κακοῖς.
- παλαιγενῇ γὰρ λέγω
 παρβασίαν³ ὠκύποινον·
 αἰῶνα δ' ἐς τρίτον μένει·
 745 Ἄπολλωνος εὖτε Λάιος
 βία,⁴ τρὶς εἰπόντος ἐν
 μεσομφάλοις Πυθικοῖς
 χρηστηρίοις θνάσκοντα⁵ γέν-
 νας ἄτερ σῶζειν πόλιν,
- κρατηθεῖς δ' ἐκ φίλων ἄβουλιᾶν⁶ [ἀντ. γ.
 ἐγένεατο⁷ μὲν μόρον αὐτῷ,
 πατροκτόνον Οἰδιπόδαν,
 ὅστε ματρὸς ἀγνάν
 σπείρας ἄρουραν, ἔν' ἐτράφη,
 755 ῥίζαν αἱματόεσσαν
 ἔτλα.⁸ παράνοια⁹ συνᾶγε
 νυμφίους φρενώλεις.¹⁰
- κακῶν δ' ὥσπερ θάλασσα κύμ' ἄγει· [ἀντ. γ.
 τὸ μὲν πίτνον, ἄλλο δ' αἶρει
 760 τρίχαλον, ὃ καὶ περὶ πρύμ-
 ναν πόλεως καχλάζει.
 μεταξὺ δ' ἄλκᾳ δι' ὀλίγου
 τείνει, πύργος ἐν εὐρεῖ.
 δέδοικα δὲ σὺν¹¹ βασιλεῦσι
 765 μὴ πόλις δαμασθῇ.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

kindred hands in mutual slaughter, and the dust of earth hath drunk their black and clotted gore, who can provide wherewith to purify? Who can wash away their stain? O house of misery, wherein new woes are blent with woes of old!

Aye, of ancient time is the transgression I recount, and swift its retribution: yet unto the third generation it abideth; ever since Laius—in defiance of Apollo's hest, albeit He thrice declared at Pytho, earth's central shrine, that he must die without offspring would he save his realm—

Ever since he, overborne by the perverse counseling of his nature, begat doom unto himself, even Oedipus, the son who slew his sire; the same who sowed his seed in a hallowed field, his mother's womb, where he was nurtured to life,—and he came to endure a growth of blood. Madness it was that linked the infatuate pair.

And now a sea of troubles, as it were, driveth on its billows; as one wave sinks, another, of triple crest, it reareth aloft, even that which now seethes about the ship of State. Narrow the space that stretches between as a defence—no, wider than a wall. I am fearful lest, with our princes, our city be o'erthrown.

¹ χθονία : γαῖα Herm.

² καθαρά** M, καθαρά m, ὅν over μα m¹, καθαρῶς recc.

³ παραβασίαν M, παραιβασίαν recc. : Porson.

⁴ βία M, βίᾱ m.

⁵ θνήσκοντα M, θνήσκοντα m most mss. : Kirchhoff.

⁶ ἀβουλίαν M, ἀβουλία or -αις recc. : Dindorf.

⁷ γείνατο M, ἐγείνατο LRN. ⁸ ἐτλη M, ἐτλα m.

⁹ παράνοται with final ι added M, παράνοια ? m.

¹⁰ φρενώλης M, φρενώεις m recc.

¹¹ συμ M, σὺν recc.

τελειᾶν¹ γὰρ παλαιφάτων ἀρᾶν² [στρ. δ.
 βαρεῖται καταλλαγαί· τὰ δ' ὅλοα
 πελόμεν³ οὐ παρέρχεται.
 770 πρόπρυμμα δ' ἐκβολὰν⁴ φέρει
 ἀνδρῶν ἀλφηστᾶν
 ὄλβος ἄγαν παχυνθείς.

τίν' ἀνδρῶν γὰρ τοσόνδ' ἐθαύμασαν [ἀντ. δ.
 θεοὶ καὶ ξυνέστοι πόλεος ὅ⁵
 775 πολύβατός⁶ τ' ἀγών⁷ βροτῶν,
 ὅσον τότ' Οἰδίπουν τίον,
 τὰν ἀρπαξάνδραν⁸
 κῆρ' ἀφελόντα χώρας;

ἐπεὶ δ' ἀρτίφρων [στρ. ε.
 ἐγένετο μέλεος ἀθλίων
 780 γάμων, ἐπ' ἄλγει δυσφορῶν
 μαινομένα κραδίᾳ⁹
 δίδυμα κάκ' ἐτέλεσεν·
 πατροφόνῳ χερὶ τῶν
 ἡκρεισσοτέκνων¹⁰ ὁμμάτων¹¹ ἐπλάγχθη·

τέκνοις δ' ἀγρίας¹² [ἀντ. ε.
 ἐφῆκεν ἐπικότους τροφᾶς,¹³
 αἰαῖ, πικρογλώσσους ἀράς,
 καὶ σφε σιδαρονόμῳ
 790 διὰ χερὶ¹⁴ ποτε λαχεῖν
 κτήματα· νῦν δὲ τρέω
 μὴ τελέσῃ καμψίπους Ἑρινύς.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

θαρσεῖτε, παῖδες μητέρων τεθραμμέναι.
 386

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

For heavy is the settlement of curses uttered long ago when they come to their fulfilment; and the fatal account, once it is there, passeth not away. The wealth of gainful men, when grown too gross, is heaved overboard from the bottom of the hold.

For who of men was ever so admired of gods and of those that share with them the city's hearth, the thronged gathering of men, as Oedipus was honoured that day when he freed the land of that deadly pest whose prey was man?

But when, to his misery, he came to know aright his ill-starred bridal, sore grieving at his pain, with frenzied heart he worked a twofold ill: with the hand that had slain his sire he reft him of his eyes, dearer to him than his own children.

And against his sons, because of their cruel tendance, he launched malisons of wrath (ah me! malisons of bitter tongue)—even that they with sword in hand should in time to come divide his substance. But now I tremble lest the Spirit of Vengeance with hurrying pace may work their accomplishment. [Enter Messenger

MESSENGER

Be of good cheer, mother-bred children that ye

¹ τέλει* M, α in erasure and αi. or α over α m¹: Dindorf.

² ἀραί: Bothe.

³ πελόμεν' M, τελόμεν' m¹.

⁴ ἐκβολῶν M, ἐκβολὰν m¹.

⁵ πόλεως: πόλεος δ Dindorf.

⁶ πολυβοτός: Blomfield from schol. M.

⁷ αἰῶν: Weil.

⁸ ἀναρπαξάνδραν: Herm.

⁹ καρδίᾳ mss. except N (κραδίᾳ).

¹⁰ κρείσσω τέκνων M, κρεισσοτέκνων m.

¹¹ δ' ἀπ' ὀμμάτων M most mss.; ὀμμάτων N.

¹² ἀράς: Francken.

¹³ τροφᾶς M, τροφᾶς P marg.

¹⁴ διαχειρίαι: Porson.

πόλις πέφενγεν ἤδε δούλιον¹ ζυγόν·
πέπτωκεν² ἀνδρῶν ὀβριμῶν κομπάσματα·
795 πόλις δ' ἐν εὐδίᾳ τε καὶ κλυδωνίου
πολλαῖσι πληγαῖς ἄντλον οὐκ ἐδέξατο.
στέγει δὲ πύργος, καὶ πύλας φερεγγύοις
ἐφραξάμεσθα³ μονομάχοισι προστάταις·
καλῶς⁴ ἔχει τὰ πλεῖστ', ἐν ἑξ' πυλώμασι·
800 τὰς δ' ἐβδόμας ὁ σεμνὸς ἐβδομαγέτης
ἄναξ Ἀπόλλων εἴλετ', Οἰδίπου γένει
κράινων παλαιὰς Λαῖου δυσβουλίας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

τί δ' ἔστι πρᾶγμα νεόκοτον πόλει πλέον;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

πόλις σέσωσται· βασιλέες⁵ δ' ὁμόσποροι—

ΧΟΡΟΣ

805 ἑτίνες; τί δ' εἶπας; παραφρονῶ φόβῳ λόγου

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

φρονούσα νῦν ἄκουσον· Οἰδίπου τόκοι⁷—

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οἶ' γὰρ⁸ τέλαινα, μάντις εἰμὶ τῶν κακῶν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

οὐδ' ἀμφιλέκτως μὴν κατεσποδημένοι—

¹ δούλειον M, δούλιον H. ² πέπτωκεν δ' M, πέπτωκεν recc.
³ ἐφραξάμεθα M, -μεσθα recc. ⁴ καλῶς M, δ' superscr. m¹.
⁵ βασιλέως M, -εις superscr. m¹, βασιλέες recc.

⁶ Transposed from after 810: Weil.

⁷ τόκος M, γένος superscr. m: Heimsoeth.

⁸ οἶ' ἐγώ: Canter.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

are. Our city has escaped the yoke of servitude; the boasts of the mighty men have fallen to the ground. The ship of State is in smooth waters and for all the sore buffeting of the surging billows hath shipped no sea. Her walls are proof, and we have bulwarked her ports with champions who in single-handed fight have redeemed their pledge. In the main, all goes well—at six portals; but the seventh, the august Commander of Sevens,¹ lord Apollo, took unto himself, fulfilling upon the house of Oedipus the follies wrought by Laius in days of old.

CHORUS

What fresh event is there further to afflict the city?

MESSENGER

The city, it is safe! But our princes, of the self-same seed—

CHORUS

Who? What is't thou meanest? My wits are distraught from dread of what thou hast to tell.

MESSENGER

Keep now thy wits and listen. The sons of Oedipus—

CHORUS

Ah, unhappy that I am! I am a prophetess of ill.

MESSENGER

In truth, past all questioning, smitten to the dust—

¹ An obscure designation of Apollo, often referred to the tradition that he was born on the seventh day. The adjective looks like a military title, but divisions of seven are unknown.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἐκείθι κείσθον¹; βαρέα δ' οὖν ὅμως φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

810 805 ²ἄνδρες³ τεθνήσιν ἐκ χερῶν⁴ αὐτοκτόνων.⁵

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οὕτως ἀδελφαῖς χερσὶν ἡναίρονθ' ἅμα⁶;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

οὕτως ὁ δαίμων κοινὸς ἦν ἀμφοῖν ἄγαν.⁷
αὐτὸς δ' ἀναλοῖ δῆτα δύσποτμον γένος.
τοιαῦτα χαίρειν καὶ δακρύνεσθαι πάρα·
815 πόλιν μὲν εὖ πράσσουσαν, οἱ δ' ἐπιστάται,
δισσῶ στρατηγῷ, διέλαχον σφυρηλάτῳ
Σκύθῃ σιδήρῳ κτημάτων παμπησίαν.
ἔξουσι δ' ἦν λάβωσιν ἐν ταφῇ χθονός,
πατὴρ κατ' εὐχὰς δυσπότμως⁸ φορούμενοι.
820 ⁹[πόλις σέσωσται· βασιλείου¹⁰ δ' ὁμοσπόρου
πέπωκεν αἶμα γαῖ¹¹ ὑπ' ἀλλήλων φόνῳ.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ μέγαλε Ζεῦ καὶ πολιοῦχοι¹²
δαίμονες, οἳ δὴ Κάδμου πύργους
τούσδε ῥύεσθε,¹³
825 πότερον χαίρω κάπολολύξω

¹ κείσθον M, ηλ superscr. m, κῆλθον other mss.

² Transposed from after 804: Weil.

³ ἄνδρες: Porson.

⁴ χερῶν M, χερῶν recc.

⁵ αὐτομάτων M, κτονων superscr. (m?).

⁶ ἄγαν: ἅμα Nauck.

⁷ ἅμα: ἄγαν Nauck.

⁸ δυσπότμος: Headlam.

⁹ [] Butler.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

CHORUS

Do they lie yonder? Dread though thy tidings
be, yet speak out plainly.

MESSENGER

Dead are the men, by hands that slew their own.

CHORUS

Were they slain together by hands thus close akin?¹

MESSENGER

Thus all too equal was their destiny to them both.
Of itself alone, in very truth, it maketh an end
of the ill-starred race. Cause have we here for
joy and tears—joy, for our city's favouring fortune;
whereas the leaders, the commanders twain, have
portioned out the fulness of their wealth with
hammered steel of Scythia; and they shall possess
whatever part of land they shall receive in sepulture,
swept by their ill-starred destiny adown the blast of
their father's curse. [Saved is the city; but our
princes, of the self-same seed—earth hath drunk their
blood, shed in slaughter each by the other's hand.]

[Exit

CHORUS

O mighty Zeus and powers divine that guard our
city, ye who in very deed protect these walls of
Cadmus! Am I to rejoice and raise a shout of

¹ *i.e.* both by birth and in cruelty.

¹⁰ βασιλείων M recc., βασιλέων recc.
¹¹ γὰρ M, γὰρ m¹. ¹² πολισ(σ)οῦχοι: Pauw.
¹³ ῥύεσθε M² (changed from ῥύεσθαι M¹) recc.

830 πόλεως ἀσινεῖ ἴσωτῆρι¹ . . .
 ἢ τοὺς μογεροὺς καὶ δυσδαίμονας
 ἀτέκνους κλαύσω πολεμάρχους;
 οἱ δ' ἦτ' ὀρθῶς κατ' ἐπωνυμίαν
 καὶ πολυνεικεῖς
 ὦλοντ' ἀσεβεῖ² διανοία.

835 ὦ μέλαινα καὶ τελεία [στρ. α.
 γένεος Οἰδίου τ' ἀρά,
 κακὸν με καρδίαν³ τι περιπίτνει κρύος.
 ἔτευξα τύμβῳ μέλος
 Θυιᾶς αἵματοσταγείς
 νεκροὺς κλύουσα δυσμόρως⁴
 θανόντας· ἢ δύσορnis ἄ-
 δε ξυναυλία δορός.

840 ἐξέπραξεν, οὐδ' ἀπεῖπεν [ἀντ. α
 πατρόθεν εὐκταία φάτις·
 βουλαὶ δ' ἄπιστοι Λαΐου διήρκεσαν.
 μέριμνα δ' ἀμφὶ πτόλιν·
 θέσφατ' οὐκ ἀμβλύνεται.
 845 ἰὼ πολύστονοι, τόδ' εἰρ-
 γάσασθ' ἄπιστον· ἦλθε δ' αἰ-
 ακτὰ πῆματ' οὐ λόγῳ.

τάδ' αὐτόδηλα, προὔπτος⁵ ἀγγέλου λόγος·
 διπλαῖ μέριμναι,⁶ ἴδιδυμάνορα⁷

¹ σωτῆρι M, σωτηρία recc.

² ἀσεβῆ corrected to ἀσεβεῖ M.

³ καρδία M, καρδίαν Cant. 1, 2.

⁴ δυσφόρως M, δυσμόρως schol., recc.

⁵ πρ*τος M, οὐπ in erasure m¹.

⁶ διπλαῖν μερίμναι M, διπλαῖ μερίμναι m recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

triumph that no scathe hath befallen the safety of the city, or am I to bewail our warrior chiefs, hapless, ill-starred, and childless? All too true to their name, and "men of much strife" indeed, have they perished through their impious intent.

O black curse inherent in the race, the curse of Oedipus, that hath now worked its full completion! A chill of anguish falls upon my heart. 'Tis for a tomb I frame my song, inspired by frenzy when I hear of their death by an evil doom and of their corpses bedabbled in blood. Mournful, indeed, is this Song of the Spear.¹

It hath worked out its end nor hath it wearied—the sentence imprecated by their sire. Laius' resolve, made in disobedience, hath held its course; and I am anxious for our city—the warnings of Heaven lose not their edge.

[The funeral procession with the bodies of the brothers comes into view]

O fraught with sorrows! Ye have wrought in this a deed passing all belief. Woes meet for groans have come in very truth.

Yon spectacle hath no need of interpreter: that whereof the messenger made report is here before our very eyes. Twofold our distress—disasters two-

¹ This passage has also been taken to deprecate as inauspicious the previous ode (720 ff.) because it was sung during the combat of the brothers: "'Twas for a tomb I framed my song when, inspired by frenzy, I heard (prophetically) . . . Ill-omened, indeed, the contest of the spear to such an accompaniment."

⁷ διδύμῃ M, διδυμ' m, ἀνορέα M recc., διδυμάνορα, διδυμανόρεα recc.

- 850 *κάκ' αὐτοφόνα, δίμοιρα τέ-
λεια τάδε¹ πάθη. τί φῶ;
τί δ' ἄλλο γ' ἢ πόνοι πόνων
δόμων ἐφέστιοι;
ἀλλὰ γόνων,² ὦ φίλοι, κατ' οὖρον*
855 *ἐρέσσει³ ἀμφὶ κρατὶ πόμπιμον χεροῖν
πίτυλον, ὃς αἰὲν δι' Ἀχέροντ' ἀμείβεται
τὰν ἄστολον⁴ μελάγκροκον [ναύστολον]⁴ θεωρίδα,
τὰν ἀστιβῆ⁵ πόλλωνι, τὰν ἀνάλιον*
860 *πάνδοκον εἰς ἀφανῇ τε χέρσον.
ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἤκουσ' αἰδ' ἐπὶ πρᾶγος
πικρὸν Ἀντιγόνη τ' ἠδ' Ἰσμήνη,
θρήνον ἀδελφοῖν· οὐκ ἀμφιβόλως
οἶμαί σφ' ἐρατῶν ἐκ βαθυκόλπων*
865 *στηθέων ἦσειν ἄλγος ἐπάξιον.
ἡμᾶς δὲ δίκη πρότερον φήμης
τὸν δυσκέλαδόν θ' ὕμνον Ἐρινύος
ἱαχεῖν Ἀίδα τ'
870 ἔχθρόν⁶ παιᾶν' ἐπιμέλπειν.*
*ἰῶ, δυσαδελφόταται πασῶν ὀπόσαι
στρόφον ἐσθῆσιν περιβάλλονται,
κλαίω, στένομαι, καὶ δόλος οὐδεὶς
μὴ 'κ φρενὸς ὀρθῶς με λιγαίνειν.*
875 *⁶ἰὼ ἰὼ δύσφρονες, [στρ. α.
φίλων ἄπιστοι καὶ κακῶν ἀτρύμονες,*

¹ τὰ M, τάδε recc.

² ἄστονον M, ἄστολον recc.

³ ἐχθρῶν M, ἐχθρόν m¹.

⁴ [ναύστολον] Stanley.
⁵ The distribution of the parts to 957 is uncertain. The ascriptions in the mss. to chorus and semichorus, Antigone and Ismene, are inconsistent and rest on slight or on no ancient tradition.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

fold of warriors slain each by the other's hand, these woes of double doom now come to fulfilment. Ah, what words have I wherewith to name them? What else indeed save sorrows born of sorrows that haunt the hearth?

But come, my friends, adown the wind of your sighs, ply with your hands about your heads the speeding stroke,¹ which alway over Acheron wins passage for the dark and sable-sailed mission-ship unto the shore whereon Apollo sets not foot nor sunlight falls, unto the shore invisible, the bourne of all.

But soft! Here come Antigone and Ismene for their sad office—to chant the dirge over their brothers twain. Not in insincerity of grief, methinks, will they pour forth their sorrow in fitting strain from their fair, deep-bosomed breasts. But it is meet for us, ere their voice be heard, to raise the dismal chant of the Avenging Spirit and to sing thereto the hateful triumph-song of Death.

Ah, sisters most unhappy in your brethren of all women who clasp their girdle about their robes! I weep, I moan, my shrill strains come from my very heart in all unfeignedness.

Alas, alas, ye misguided ones, whom friends could not persuade, nor misfortune tire, who to your

¹ As the souls of the brothers are now being conveyed across Acheron in Charon's boat, the Chorus in imagination aid their passage by the ritual of mourning. Their song of lamentation stands for the wind, the beating of their heads by their hands are the strokes of the oars. Contrasted with the grim vessel that transports all spirits to the sunless land of Hades is the ship that goes to the festival at Delos, the "clearly-seen" island, the land of Apollo, god of light and health.

δόμους πατρώους¹ ἐλόν-
τες μέλαιοι σὺν αἰχμῇ.²

880 μέλαιοι δῆθ' οἱ μελέους θανάτους
εὗροντο δόμων ἐπὶ λύμῃ.

ἰὼ ἰὼ δωμάτων
ἐρευψίτοιχοι³ καὶ πικρὰς μοναρχίας
885 ἰδόντες, ἥδη διήλ-
λαχθε σὺν σιδάρῳ.⁴

[ἀντ. α.]

κάρτα δ' ἀληθῇ πατὸς Οἰδιπόδα
πότνι' Ἐρινὺς ἐπέκρανεν.

δι' εὐωνύμων τετυμμένοι,
890 τετυμμένοι δῆθ'⁵

[στρ. β.]

ὁμοσπλάγχων τε πλευρωμάτων

αἰαὶ δαιμόνιοι,
αἰαὶ δ' ἀντιφόνων
θανάτων ἀραί.

895 διανταίαν λέγεις [πλαγὰν]⁷ δόμοισι καὶ
σώμασιν πεπλαγμένους, [ἐννέπω]⁸
ἀναυδάτῳ μένει
ἀραίῳ τ' ἐκ πατὸς
<οὐ>⁹ δεχόφρονι πότμῳ.

900 διήκει δὲ καὶ πόλιν στόνος,
στένουσι πύργοι,
στένει πέδον φίλανδρον· μένει¹⁰
κτέανα δ'¹¹ ἐπιγόνοις,

[ἀντ. β.]

905 δι' ὧν αἰνομόροις,
δι' ὧν νείκος ἔβα
[καὶ]¹² θανάτου τέλος.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

misery have, by your prowess, won ruinous possession
of your father's house !

To their misery, indeed, they won for themselves
a miserable death in the havoc of their house.

Alas, alas, thou who wouldst have razed to the
ground the walls of thy home, and thou who wouldst
have seen thyself—to thy bitter sorrow—sole lord,
now at length are ye reconciled by the help of steel.

The awful Avenging Spirit of Oedipus, your sire,
hath worked right true fulfilment.

Smitten through your left sides, aye, smitten
indeed—those sides that sprung from the selfsame
womb ! Alas, afflicted of Heaven ! Alas, the curse
with death requiting death !

Smitten, even as thou sayest, were they by a
blow thrust home to house and life, through wrath
unspeakable, and by the doom invoked by their
sire's curse, the doom they shared without discord.

Through the city too passeth the sound of lamenta-
tion ; the battlements lament ; the land that loveth
its sons laments. But for those who come after
them their wealth abideth, for the ill-starred
wretches the cause, aye, the cause whereby their
strife came to its end in death.

¹ πατρός δόμους : Schütz.

² ἀλκῇ M, αἰχμῇ m γρ.

³ ἐρειψίταχοι M, ἐρειψίτοιχοι m¹, ἐρειψίτοιχοι recc.

⁴ After this verse M has οὐκ ἔτ' ἐπὶ φιλία ἀλλ' ἐπὶ φόνῳ
διεκρίθητε, rejected by N (Triclinius) as a scholium.

⁵ δῆτα M.

⁶ Lacuna indicated by Lachmann.

⁷ [πλαγάν] Elmsley.

⁸ [ἐννέπω] Elmsley.

⁹ <οὐ> Wecklein.

¹⁰ μενεῖ : Weil.

¹¹ τ' M, δ' Cant.

¹² [καί] C. G. Haupt.

ἔμοιράσαντο δ' ὄξυκάρδιοι
κτῆμαθ', ὥστ' ἴσον λαχεῖν.
διαλλακτῆρι δ' οὐκ
ἀμεμφεία¹ φίλοις,
οὐδ' ἐπίχαρις Ἀρης.

910

σιδαρόπλακτοι² μὲν ᾧδ' ἔχουσιν,
σιδαρόπλακτοι² δὲ τοὺς μένουσι,³
τάχ' ἂν τις εἴποι, τίνες;
τάφων πατρώων λαχαί.

[στρ. γ.

915 ὄδ' ἀμῶν⁴ μάλ' ἀχέτας⁵ τοὺς
προπέμπει δαῖκτῆρ γόος αὐ-
τόστονος, αὐτοπήμων,
δαϊόφρων⁶ [δ'],⁷ οὐ φιλογαθής, ἐτύμως
δακρυχέων ἐκ⁸ φρενός, ἃ
920 κλαιομένας μου μινύθει
τοῖνδε δυοῖν⁹ ἀνάκτοι.

πάρεστι δ' εἰπεῖν ἐπ' ἀθλίωσιν
ὥς ἐρξάτην πολλὰ μὲν πολίτας,¹⁰
ξένων τε πάντων στίχας
925 πολυφθόρους ἐν δαί.

[ἀντ. γ.

δυσδαίμων σφιν ἅ¹¹ τεκοῦσα
πρὸ πασᾶν¹² γυναικῶν ὁπόσαι
τεκνογόνοι κέκληνται.
παῖδα τὸν αὐτᾶς¹³ πόσιν αὐτᾶ θεμένα
930 τούσδ' ἔτεχ', οἳ δ' ᾧδ' ἔτελεύ-
τασαν ὑπ' ἀλλαλοφόνους
χερσὶν ὁμοσπόροισιν.

398

They parted their possessions in the bitterness of wrath so that each hath equal portion. They that loved them hold not him blameless who wrought their reconciliation; nor is Ares pleasing in their sight.

By strokes of steel are they come to this, and by strokes of steel, there awaiteth them—what? one may ask perchance—a portion in their father's tomb.¹

Our loud-resounding, piercing wail attends them—a wail of unforced sorrow, unforced pain, from minds distressed, wherein there is no thought of joy, and poured forth with tears in all unfeignedness from out a heart that wasteth as I weep for our two princes here.

At the bier of the hapless pair it may be said that they wrought many a deed unto their countrymen and also unto the ranks of all the foreign foe—who perished in numbers in the fight.

Ill-fated, beyond all women that are named with the name of mother, was she who bare them. Her own child she took as her own husband; she brought forth these sons; and they have thus perished by hands that dealt each other death, hands from the self-same seed.

¹ As the brothers were to divide the substance of their dead father, their equal inheritance was the tomb. *λαχαί* means both "apportioning of possessions" and "digging."

¹ ἀμεμφία: Herm.

² σιδηρόπληκτοι M, -πλακτοι R.

³ After this verse M has τετυμμένοι δὴθ' ὁμοῦ (cp. 888).

⁴ δόμων: δδ' ἀμῶν Tucker.

⁵ ἀχάεσσα: Tucker.

⁶ δαίφρων: Blomfield.

⁷ [δ'] P² Aldina.

⁸ δ' ἐκ M, ἐκ recc.

⁹ δοιοῖν M, δυοῖν recc.

¹⁰ πολίταις all mss. except Cant. 2 (πολίτας) and F² (πολιήταις).

¹¹ ἡ M, ἡ A.

¹² προπασάν M, -ῶν m.

¹³ αὐτὰς M: Turn.

935 ὁμόςποροι δῆτα καὶ πανώλεθροι, [στρ. δ.
διατομαῖς οὐ φίλοις,
ἔριδι μαινομένα,
νείκεος ἐν τελευτᾷ.

πέπαιται δ' ἔχθος, ἐν δὲ γαῖα
ζόα φονορύτῳ¹
μέμεικται.² κάρτα δ' εἶς ὅμαιμοι.
940 πικρὸς λυτῆρ νεικέων ὁ πόντιος
ξείνος ἐκ πυρὸς συθεῖς
θακτὸς³ σίδαρος· πικρὸς δὲ χρημάτων
κακὸς दाτητὰς Ἀρης ἀρὰν⁴ πατρώ-
αν⁵ τιθεῖς ἀλαθῇ.⁶

945 ἔχουσι μοῖραν λαχόντες οἱ⁷ μέλεοι [ἀντ. δ.
διοδότων⁸ ἀχθέων.⁹
ὑπὸ δὲ σώματι γᾶς
πλοῦτος ἄβυσσος ἔσται.

ἰὼ πολλοῖς ἐπανθίσαντες¹⁰
950 πόνοισι γενεάν.¹¹
τελευταῖαι δ' ἑπῆλάλαξαν
Ἀρὰ τὸν ὄξυν νόμον, τετραμμένον
παντρόπῳ φυγᾷ γένους.
ἔστακε δ' ἑπῆ¹² Ἀτας τροπαῖον ἐν πύλαις,
955 ἐν αἷς ἐθείνοντο, καὶ δυοῖν κρατή-
σας ἔληξε δαίμων.

ANTIGONE

παισθεῖς ἔπαισας.

¹ φονορύτῳ M, φονορύτῳ recc.

² μέμεικται : Kirchhoff.

³ θακτὸς M.

⁴ ἀρὰ M changed to ἀρὰν.

⁵ πατρός : Burney.

Of the self-same seed, in very sooth, they perished,
and in utter destruction, in unloving severance,
ending their quarrel by frenzied strife.

Their enmity hath ceased. Their life hath been
mingled with the blood-soaked earth. In very truth
their blood is one. A ruthless resolver of their strife
was that stranger from beyond the sea, the whetted
steel, sped forth from fire; and ruthless was the
cruel apportioner of their wealth, Ares, who made
true their father's curse.

They have, the unhappy men, the portion allotted
them of the burden of sorrow sent of Heaven. But
there shall be unfathomable wealth—of earth—
beneath their lifeless clay.

Alas, with many a wreath of woe have ye crowned
your house! But at the end of all the Curses raised
their shrill song of triumph, now that the race is
turned in utter rout. At the gate, whereat they
smote each other, now standeth a trophy unto Ruin;
and victorious o'er them both, the Evil Genius stayed
his hand.

[*The following antiphonal dirge is sung by the
two sisters—Antigone standing by the bier
of Polynices, Ismene by that of Eteocles*

ANTIGONE

Smitten, thou didst smite.

⁶ ἀληθῆ with α over the first η M, ἀληθῆ recc.

⁷ ω or ω recc. (not in M): oi Wilam.

⁸ διοσδύτων: Bothe. ⁹ ἀχέων: Schwenk.

¹⁰ ἐπανθήσαντες: Bothe.

¹¹ γενεάν M, γε δόμους (or δόμοις) recc.

¹² τελευτᾷ δ' αἰδ' M, τελευταῖα δ' αἰδ' recc.: Herm.

¹³ ἔστακεν M, ἔστακε δ' superscr. M or m.

AESCHYLUS

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

σὺ δ' ἔθανες¹ κατακτανών.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

δορὶ δ' ἔκανες—

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

δορὶ δ' ἔθανες—

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

960 μελεοπόνος.²

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

μελεοπαθής.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ἔτω γόος.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ἔτω δάκρυ.³

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

πρόκεισαι⁴—

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

965 κατακτάς.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ἡέ.

[στρ. α.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ἡέ.⁵

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

μαίνεται γόοισι φρήν.

¹ ἔκτανες: Herm.

² μελεόπονος: Weil.

³ δάκρυα: Lachmann.

⁴ προκέσεται (M¹ προσ-): Herm.

⁵ ἡέ ἡέ one speaker: Herm.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ISMENE

And slaying, thou wast slain.

ANTIGONE

By the spear thou didst slay—

ISMENE

By the spear thou wast slain—

ANTIGONE

Unhappy in thy deed.

ISMENE

Unhappy in thy sufferings.

ANTIGONE

Let lament be poured forth.

ISMENE

Let tears be poured forth.

ANTIGONE

Thou liest prostrate—

ISMENE

Thou who didst slay.

ANTIGONE

Ah me !

ISMENE

Ah me !

ANTIGONE

My mind is maddened with wailing.

AESCHYLUS

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ἐντὸς δὲ καρδία στένει.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ὦ ὦ πάνδυρτε¹ σύ.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

970 σὺ δ' αὖτε καὶ πανάθλιε.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

πρὸς φίλου [γ']² ἔφθισο.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

καὶ φίλον ἔκτανες.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

διπλᾶ λέγειν—

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

διπλᾶ δ' ὁρᾶν—

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

975 ἄχθεα τῶνδε³ τάδ' ἐγγύθεν.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

πέλας ἀδελφεῖ ἀδελφεῶν.⁴

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὦ Μοῖρα βαρυδότειρα μογερά,

¹ πανδάκρυτε M recc., πολυδάκρυτε recc.: Ritschl.

² φίλου γ' most mss., φίλου N.

³ ἀχέων τοίων M, ἀχέων γόνων recc.: ἄχθεα Smyth, cp. v.l.
Ag. 1101: τῶνδε Weil.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ISMENE

And my heart within me moaneth.

ANTIGONE

Alas, alas, thou all-lamentable.

ISMENE

And thou also all-wretched.

ANTIGONE

By thine own thou wast slain.

ISMENE

And thine own thou didst slay.

ANTIGONE

Twofold to relate—

ISMENE

Twofold to behold—

ANTIGONE

Are these sorrows anigh unto those.

ISMENE

Anigh, kindred unto kindred.

CHORUS

O grievous Fate, thou bestower of affliction, and

⁴ πέλας δ' αὖδ' ἀδελφαί: Heimsoeth.

πότνια τ' Οἰδίπου σκιά,
μέλαινα¹ Ἐρινύς, ἥ μεγασθενῆς τις εἶ.

ANTIGONH

980

ἦέ.

[ἀντ. α.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ἦέ.

ANTIGONH

δυσθέατα πῆματα²—

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ἔδειξεν³ ἐκ φυγᾶς ἐμοί.

ANTIGONH

οὐδ' ἵκεθ' ὥς κατέκτανεν.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

σωθεῖς δὲ πνεῦμ' ἀπώλεσεν.

ANTIGONH

985

ᾤλεσε⁴ δῆτ' <ἄγαν>.⁵

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

καὶ τὸν⁶ ἐνρόσφισεν.

ANTIGONH

τάλαν γένος.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

τάλαν πάθος.⁷

¹ μέλαινα τ' : Porson.

³ ἔδειξεν³ : Herm.

⁵ <ἄγαν> Weil.

² ἦέ ἦέ δ. πῆματα one speaker : Herm.

⁴ ἀπώλεσεν M, ἀπώλεσε recc., ᾤλεσε N.

⁶ τὸνδ' : C. G. Schneider.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

thou, awful Shade of Oedipus, black Spirit of Vengeance, verily a mighty power art thou.

ANTIGONE

Ah me !

ISMENE

Ah me !

ANTIGONE

Woes sad to behold—

ISMENE

Hath he shown me returning from exile.

ANTIGONE

But he returned not when he had slain.

ISMENE

Saved, he lost his life.

ANTIGONE

Lost it in very truth.

ISMENE

And took *his* life away.

ANTIGONE

Hapless race !

ISMENE

Hapless misery !

⁷ τάλανα (τάλαινα PK, τάλαν V) καὶ παθόν M, τάλανα πάθον Q, τάλαν καὶ πάθος recc. : Schütz.

ANTIGONH

δύστονα κήδε' ὀμαίμονα.¹

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

990 †δίλυγα τριπάλτων πημάτων.²

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ἰὼ³ Μοῖρα βαρυδότειρα μογερά,
πότνιά τ' Οἰδίπου σκιά,
μέλαιν' Ἐρινύς, ἥ μεγασθενής τις εἶ.

ANTIGONH

σὺ τοί νυν⁴ οἶσθα διαπερῶν—

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

995 σὺ δ' οὐδὲν ὕστερος μαθῶν—

ANTIGONH

ἐπεὶ κατῆλθες εἰς πόλιν,

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

δορός γε τῷδ' ἀντηρέτας,

ANTIGONH

ὀλοὰ λέγειν.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ὀλοὰ δ' ὄρᾱν.

ANTIGONH

1000 ἰὼ⁵ πόνος—

¹ ὁμώνυμα: Weil.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ANTIGONE

Grievous sorrows of kindred !

ISMENE

Sorrows steeped in threefold woes.

CHORUS

O grievous Fate, thou bestower of affliction, and thou, awful Shade of Oedipus, black Spirit of Vengeance, verily a mighty power art thou.

ANTIGONE

Now thou knowest it by experience—

ISMENE

And thou, who hast learned the lesson no later—

ANTIGONE

When thou didst return to the city.

ISMENE

Aye, to face him with thy spear.

ANTIGONE

Dread to relate !

ISMENE

Dread to behold !

ANTIGONE

Ah, the grief—

² After this verse M has ὁλοῦ λέγειν ὁλοῦ δ' ὅραν brought from 998-9; rejected by N (Triclinius).

³ ἰὼ (not in M) recc., ἰὼ ἰὼ NF.

⁴ νιν M, νιν recc.

⁵ ἰὼ ἰὼ M, ἰὼ recc.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ὦ κακά—

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

δώμασι καὶ χθονί.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

πρὸ πάντων δ' ἐμοί.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

καὶ τὸ πρόσω γ' ἐμοί.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

1005 ὦ ὦ δυστόνων¹ κακῶν, ἄναξ.²

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ὦ πάντων πολυστονώτατοι.³

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ὦ ὦ⁴ δαιμονῶντες ἄτα.⁵

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ὦ ὦ,⁴ ποῦ σφε θήσομεν χθόνος;

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ

ὦ, ὅπου <᾽στι>⁶ τιμιώτατον.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

1010 ὦ ὦ, πῆμα πατρὶ πάρευνον.

¹ δυστάνων M recc., δυστόνων NF.

² After 1005 in margin of M ἐτεόκλεις ἀρχηγέτα.

³ πολυπονώτατοι M most mss., -πονώτατε G, -στονέτατοι F.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

ISMENE

Ah, the ills—

ANTIGONE

Unto home and land.

ISMENE

Before all unto me.

ANTIGONE

And farther unto me.

ISMENE

Alas, alas, for thy grievous miseries, my prince.

ANTIGONE

Alas, O ye of all mankind most lamentable.

ISMENE

Alas, alas, O ye possessed of an evil spirit by your fatal folly.

ANTIGONE

Ah, where shall we lay them in the earth?

ISMENE

Ah, where their honour is the greatest.

ANTIGONE

Alas, alas! To sleep by their sire's side and to his sorrow.

[Enter a Herald

⁴ ἰὼ M, ἰὼ ἰὼ recc.

⁵ ἐν ἀτὰρ M, ἀτὰρ recc.

⁶ <σσι> Dindorf.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

- δοκοῦντα καὶ δόξαντ' ἀπαγγέλλειν με χρῆ
 δήμου προβούλοις τῆσδε Καδμείας πόλεως.
 Ἐτεοκλέα μὲν τόνδ' ἐπ' εὐνοίᾳ¹ χθονὸς
 1015 θάπτειν ἔδοξε γῆς φίλαις κατασκαφαῖς.
 στυγῶν γὰρ ἐχθροὺς θάνατον εἴλετ' ἐν πόλει
 ἱερῶν πατρῶων δ'² ὅσιος ὦν μομφῆς ἄτερ
 τέθνηκεν οὐπὲρ τοῖς νέοις θνήσκειν³ καλόν.
 οὕτω μὲν ἀμφὶ τοῦδ' ἐπέσταλται λέγειν.
 1020 τούτου δ' ἀδελφὸν τόνδε Πολυνείκους νεκρὸν
 ἔξω βαλεῖν ἄθαπτον, ἀρπαγὴν κυσίν,
 ὥς ὄντ' ἀναστατῆρα Καδμείων χθονός,
 εἰ μὴ θεῶν τις ἐμποδὼν ἔστη δορί
 τῷ τοῦδ'. ἄγος δὲ καὶ θανῶν κεκτῆσεται
 θεῶν πατρῶων, οὓς ἀτιμάσας ὁδε
 1025 στράτευμ' ἐπακτὸν ἐμβαλὼν ἤρει πόλιν.
 οὕτω πετηνῶν τόνδ' ὑπ' οἰωνῶν δοκεῖ
 ταφέντ' ἀτίμως τοῦπιτίμιον λαβεῖν,
 καὶ μήθ' ὀμαρτεῖν τυμβοχόα χειρώματα
 μήτ' ὀξυμόλποις προσσέβειν οἰμώγμασιν,
 1030 ἀτιμον εἶναι⁴ δ' ἐκφορᾶς φίλων ὕπο.
 τοιαῦτ' ἔδοξε⁵ τῷδε Καδμείων τέλει.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ἐγὼ δὲ Καδμείων γε προστάταις λέγω·
 ἦν μὴ τις ἄλλος τόνδε συνθάπτειν θέλῃ,⁶
 ἐγὼ σφε θάψω καὶ κίνδυνον βαλῶ

¹ εὐνοία M, εὐνοία recc.

² πατρῶων M¹, π. δὲ M² or m, and recc.

³ θνήσκειν M: Kirchhoff.

⁴ ἀτιμον δ' (δ' deleted) εἶναι δ' M, ἀτιμον δ' εἶναι V, ἀτιμον εἶναι most recc.

⁵ ἔδοξεν M, ἔδοξε recc.

⁶ θέλοι M, θέλη recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

HERALD

It is my duty to make proclamation of the good pleasure and decree of the Council of our city of Cadmus that hath in charge the interest of its people.

Eteocles, who lieth here, seeing that he hath shown loyalty to his country, it is decreed to bury with kindly interment in its soil; for that, hating the foe, he courted death in the city, and pure of offence towards the shrines of his fathers he hath fallen, free of reproach, where it is an honour for the young to fall. Thus, touching him, it hath been enjoined upon me to proclaim. His brother Poly-nices, however, who lieth there in death, is to be cast forth unburied, a prey to dogs, since he had been the destroyer of the land of Cadmus, were it not that some one of the gods had thwarted him by the spear of his brother who lieth here; and even in death he shall retain the stain of his guilt against his fathers' gods, to whose dishonour he would fain have captured our city by hurling against it an alien host. Wherefore it is decreed that he gain his guerdon—unhonoured burial by winged birds; and that no service of hands attend to pile his barrow nor mourners do him honour with shrill-voiced lament; but that he be refused the grace of funeral rite by loving hands. Such, in respect of him, is the decree of the Cadmean powers.

ANTIGONE

Yea, and I declare unto your Cadmean rulers—if none other be willing to take part with me in burying him, I will bury him, and I will risk the

- 1035 θάψας' ἀδελφὸν τὸν ἐμόν, οὐδ' αἰσχύνομαι
 ἔχουσ' ἄπιστον τήνδ' ἀναρχίαν πόλει.
 δεινὸν τὸ κοινὸν σπλάγχχνον, οὐ πέφύκαμεν,
 μητρὸς ταλαίνης καπὸ δυστήνου πατρός.
 1040 τοιγὰρ θέλουσ' ἄκοντι κοινῶναι κακῶν¹
 ψυχή, θανόντι ζῶσα συγγόνῳ φρενί.
 τούτου² δὲ σάρκας οὐδὲ κοιλογάστορες
 λύκοι σπάσσονται³ μὴ δοκησάτω τινί.
 τάφον γὰρ αὐτῷ καὶ κατασκαφὰς ἐγώ,
 γυνή περ οὔσα, τῷδε μηχανήσομαι,
 1045 κόλπῳ φέρουσα βυσσίνου πεπλώματος.
 καυτὴ καλύψω, μηδέ τῳ δόξῃ πάλιν.
 θάρσει, παρέσται μηχανὴ δραστήριος.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

αὐδῶ πόλιν σε μὴ βιάζεσθαι τάδε.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

αὐδῶ σέ⁴ μὴ περισσὰ κηρύσσειν ἐμοί.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

- 1050 τραχὺς γε μέντοι δῆμος ἐκφυγὼν κακά.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

τράχυν' ἄθαπτος δ' οὗτος οὐ γενήσεται.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

ἄλλ' ὃν πόλις στυγεῖ, σὺ τιμήσεις τάφῳ;

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ἤδη τὰ τοῦδε⁵ διατετίμηται θεοῖς.

¹ κακ. M, κακῶ m, κακῶν recc. ² τούτω M, τούτου recc.
³ σπάσσονται M¹ recc., πάσσονται M² recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

peril of burying mine own brother; nor do I feel shame thus to be an unsubmissive rebel to the State. Strange power—the bond of common blood whence we are sprung, from wretched mother and unhappy sire. Therefore, O my soul, in sisterly loyalty of heart take willing part in his distress with him who has no will, the living with the dead. His flesh no gaunt-bellied wolves shall rend—let no one “decree” me that! Woman that I am, I will contrive for him a burying and a grave, bearing the earth in the folds of my linen raiment. With my own hands I will cover him. Let no man “decree” it otherwise. Courage! I shall find the means to act.

HERALD

I charge thee not thus to bid defiance to the State.

ANTIGONE

I charge thee, make no idle proclamations unto me.

HERALD

And yet ruthless is a people that hath emerged from peril.

ANTIGONE

Let it be ruthless! Unburied he shall not be.

HERALD

What! Wilt thou honour with burial him whom the State detests?

ANTIGONE

Long since the question of his honour has been settled by the gods.

⁴ σε: Tucker.

⁵ τοῦδ' οὐ: Paley from schol.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

οὐ, πρίν γε χώραν τήνδε κινδύνῳ βαλεῖν.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

1055

παθὼν κακῶς κακοῖσιν ἀντημείβετο.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

ἀλλ' εἰς ἅπαντας ἀνθ' ἑνὸς τόδ' ἔργον ἦν.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ

ἔρις περαίνει μῦθον ὑστάτῃ θεῶν.
ἐγὼ δὲ θάψω τόνδε· μὴ μακρηγόρει.

ΚΗΡΤΞ

ἀλλ' αὐτόβουλος ἴσθ', ἀπεννέπω δ' ἐγώ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

φεῦ φεῦ.

1060

ὦ μέγалаυχοι καὶ φθερσιγενεῖς
Κῆρες Ἑρινύες, αἴτ' Οἰδιπόδα
γένος ὠλέσατε πρυμνόθεν οὕτως,
τί πάθω; τί δὲ δρῶ¹; τί δὲ μήσωμαι;

1065

πῶς τολμήσω μήτε σὲ κλαίειν
μήτε προπέμπειν ἐπὶ τύμβον²;
ἀλλὰ φοβοῦμαι κάποτρέπομαι
δείμα πολιτῶν.

1070

σύ γε μὴν πολλῶν πενθητήρων
τεύξει· κείνος δ' ὁ τάλας ἄγοος
μονόκλαυτον ἔχων θρήνον³ ἀδελφῆς
εἶσιν· τίς ἂν οὖν τὰ πίθοιτο⁴;

¹ δ' ἐρῶ M, δὲ δρῶ recc.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

HERALD

Nay, not until he cast into peril this land of ours.

ANTIGONE

He suffered ill and made return with ill.

HERALD

Aye, but this deed of his he wrought against all,
not against one.

ANTIGONE

Strife is the last of gods to close dispute. I will
bury him that lieth here. Spare thy flood of talk.

HERALD

Well, follow thine own will. But I forbid thee.

[Exit

CHORUS

Alas, alas! O Vengeful Spirits, Ministers of
Death, who make high vaunt over the ruin of a race,
who have thus destroyed, both root and branch, the
stock of Oedipus! What course must I pursue?
What action take? What plan must I devise?
How can I have the heart neither to bewail thee
nor to escort thee to thy tomb? But I am adread,
and shrink in terror of the townsfolk. *Thou* indeed
shalt find many to lament thee; while *he*, shall he,
unhappy one, depart unmourned, his only dirge a
sister's tears? Who could consent to that?

² τύμβω M; τύμβον recc.

³ θρήνος M, θρήνον recc.

⁴ πείθοιτο M, πίθοιτο recc.

HMIXORION

δράτῳ <τι>¹ πόλις καὶ μὴ δράτῳ
 τοὺς κλαίοντας Πολυνείκη.
 1075 ἡμεῖς μὲν ἔμεν καὶ συνθάβομεν
 αἶδε προπομποί. καὶ γὰρ γενεᾷ
 κοινὸν τόδ' ἄχος, καὶ πόλις ἄλλως
 ἄλλοτ' ἐπαινεῖ τὰ δίκαια.

HMIXORION

ἡμεῖς δ' ἅμα τῷδ', ὥσπερ τε πόλις
 καὶ τὸ δίκαιον ξυνεπαινεῖ.
 1080 μετὰ γὰρ μάκαρας καὶ Διὸς ἰσχὺν
 ὅδε Καδμείων ἤρυσσε πόλιν
 μὴ 'νατραπήναι μηδ' ἄλλοδαπῷ
 κύματι φωτῶν
 κατακλυσθῆναι τὰ μάλιστα.

¹ <τι> Anon. in Elmsley's *Med.* 1224.

THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES

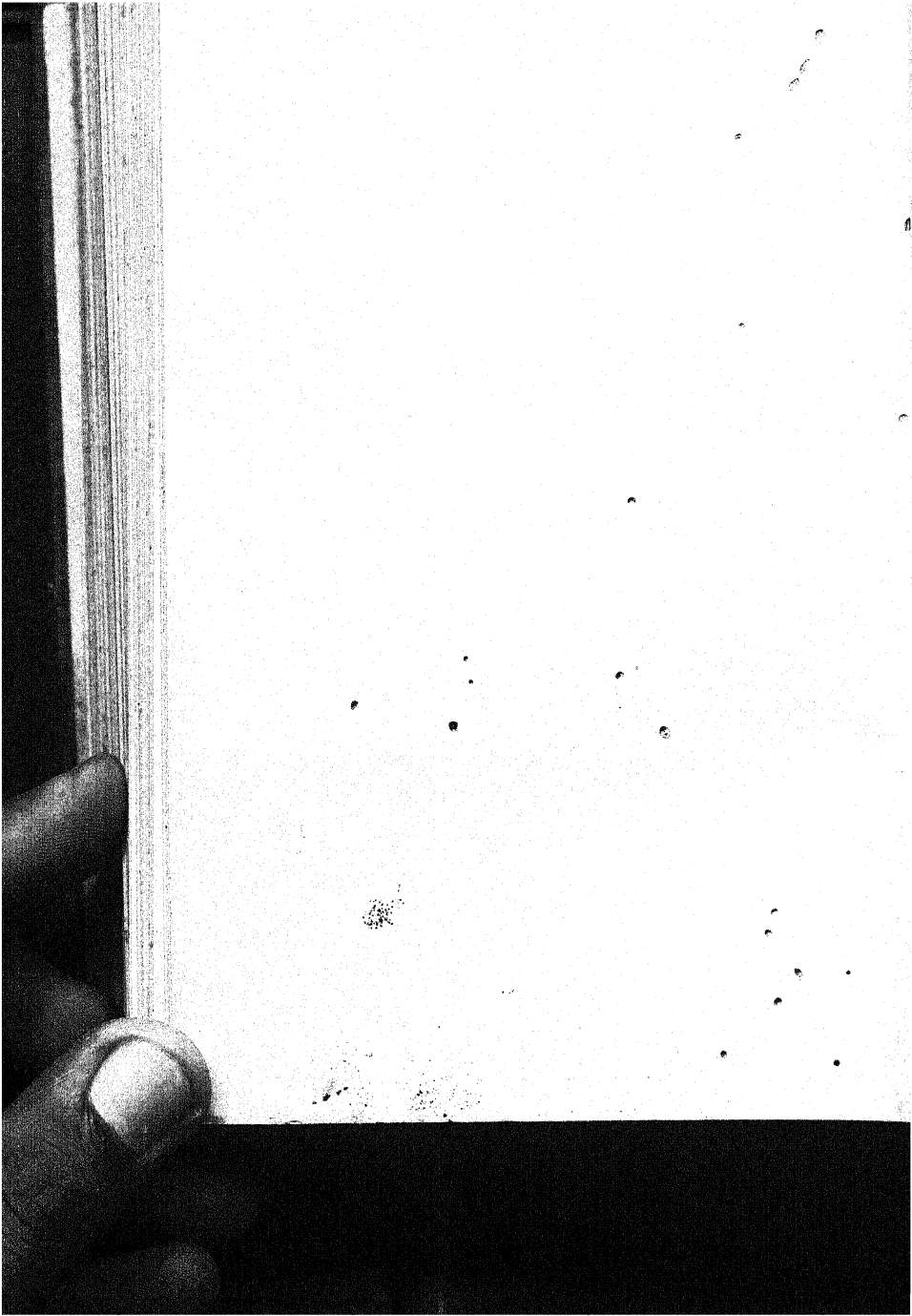
FIRST HALF-CHORUS

Let the State doom or doom not those that sorrow
for Polynices. We, at all events, will go and in
funeral train join her in burying him. For all our
race hath portion in this sorrow; and what a State
approves as just changes with changing times.

SECOND HALF-CHORUS

And we will go with this other corpse even as
the State, and justice, too, approves. For after
the blessed gods and mighty Zeus, he it was who
saved the Cadmean realm from sinking, overturned,
beneath an alien surge of men, he most of all.

[Exeunt omnes]



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